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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

March 1st—7th, 1984
Volume 19, Number 9

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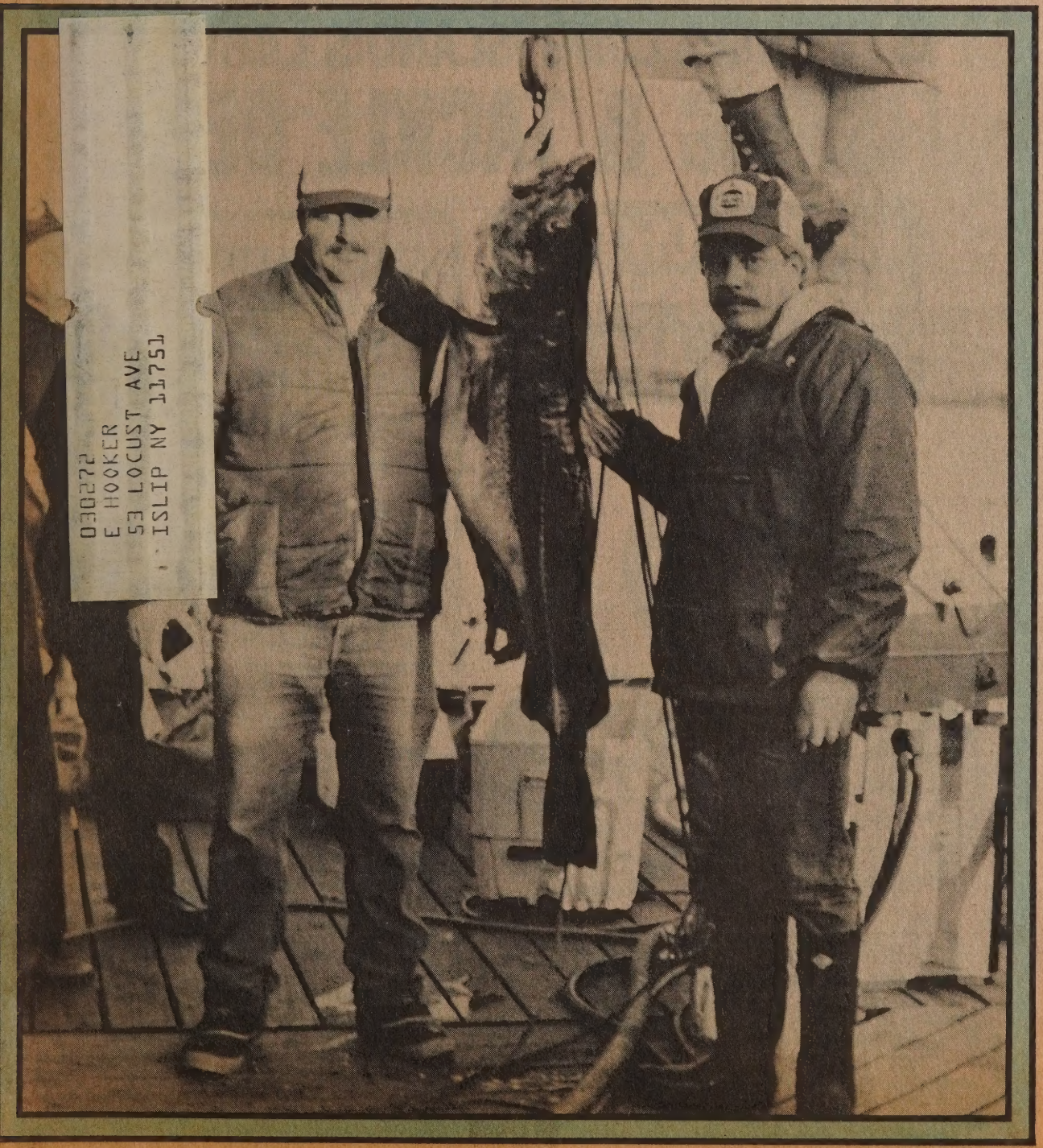

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THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

Volume 19, Number 9 March 1st, 1984

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ABOUT THE COVER:

George Fischer and Paul Seward each had a hand in landing this huge cod. The big cow took the baits of both anglers during a trip earlier this month aboard the Big Foot. Weighed at *Hook, Line and Sinker* in Freeport, the 74.4 pound fish was the largest cod to come to our attention this season. Current New York State record is a 76 pounder taken back in 1981 by Louis Schobel.

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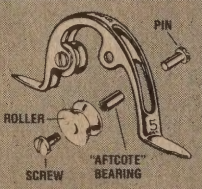

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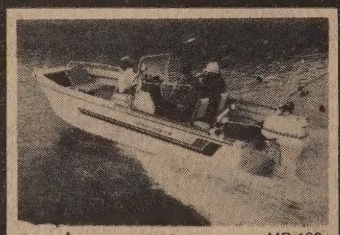

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EDITORIAL

WRITTEN COMMENTS TO GOVERNOR CUOMO'S ECONOMIC TASK FORCE RELATIVE TO STRIPED BASS

It is my understanding, based upon the Governor's written memorandum attached to the signed legislation for striped bass management, that the charge to the Task Force is to identify and explore mechanisms and opportunities for relief of possible economic hardships experienced by the commercial fishing industry in recent years.

The appropriate passage reads:

"This panel will assess the economic impact occasioned by this bill and recommend measures which the State can then undertake to assist Long Island fishermen in regaining their economic strength and vitality."

On January 17, 1984 I attended a public meeting of the Task Force at Hauppauge and much of the discussion was aimed at discrediting the legislation. I believe the time and energy of the Task Force would be better spent if it confined itself to the charge given to it by Governor Cuomo. I was appalled to hear a request from the commercial fishermen for an interim report in support of three amendments to the existing legislation being introduced by commercial fishermen to the 1984 legislative session. Clearly the job of the Task Force is not to design or support amendments to the striped bass legislation, and the Task Force does not have the responsibility for disassembling the existing legislation.

The legislation was passed because, in the opinion of most fisheries managers and biologists, legislation to reduce mortality is necessary in order to help protect the species from additional precipitous stock declines, and to attempt to protect the long-range economic and recreational value of the species. The legislation is fact, and before we amend it or disasemble it, management efforts should be given a reasonable time to succeed and its success should be evaluated on a continuous basis. At a future date, further restrictions may be deemed necessary, or a relaxation of existing measures may be possible. Future decisions must be made on the basis of the best scientific data available as was the case during the formation and passage of the present legislation in 1983.

The very integrity of the Task Force is in jeopardy should the Task Force stray into areas where its expertise, sphere of influence, and authority are in question. If the Task Force does not hold closely to the Governor's charge, many citizens will be forced to challenge both the integrity of the Task Force and the validity of its final report. These challenges will be made publicly and at the highest levels of State government.

We also heard comments at the public hearing promoting certain people as scientists. I caution the Task Force not to accept the comments of self-proclaimed scientists as representing expert testimony from the scientific sector. If testimony is to be accepted as expert, the credentials of those individuals must be carefully scrutinized. We would accept such testimony as expert in the categories of commercial fishermen, commercial entrepreneurs, recreational fishermen, and interested citizens. However, undergraduate degrees in a science does not legally qualify a person to give expert scientific testimony. As a bona fide and formally trained marine scientist, my concern on this matter extends beyond the workings of the Task Force and into the very integrity of the scientific community. I feel obliged to make this observation and comments given the events of the evening of January 17, 1984 and we feel they should be given full consideration.

However, the thrust of the Task Force, and thus the thrust of our comments must fall into the question of economic hardship and economic rehabilitation.

We support reasonable, appropriate and non-destructive attempts that would allow the commercial fishing sector to overcome any economic hardship resulting from the passage of striped bass legislation in 1983. For purposes of discussion, we define a commercial fisherman as anyone who sells their fish.

We believe there are a number of actions that could be taken that would help commercial fishermen replace income lost due to the management legislation.

First, let me make the following observation. The management law will mean fewer fish caught. However, the average size of the fish will be larger. Thus, it is possible that the discrepancy between hardship of recent years and that projected for 1984 may be less than predicted. Furthermore, management regulations are not destructive. They represent the best possible attempt to protect resources and the rights and benefits of these resources to users. If

stocks are in crisis, management criteria may result in temporary economic setbacks. However, in the long run, management will reverse the crisis and may help to provide a bounty for the future. In the interim, management reduces mortality which allows existing fish to live longer and conserve the existing economic and social value of resources in order that it be consumed slowly until a dominant year class occurs. This basic principle of fisheries management is accepted world-wide. There are many examples that demonstrate the success of this strategy. The 200-mile limit management effort is perhaps the most visible example.

Thus it is very possible that striped bass management may do as much to protect fishermen as it will accomplish in protecting the fish.

However, it is clear that our primary responsibility must be to the resource and any discussion aimed at assisting man during this period of stock decline can only be attempted with the primary goal as a clear priority.

With these facts in mind, we offer the following suggestions to the Task Force as representing viable and meaningful measures that could be taken without violating the priority goal.

1. State-supported low interest loans for the purpose of the purchase of new gear that will allow commercial fishermen to enter several new markets and reduce the impact of possible smaller striped bass harvests.

2. Open new fresh fish markets for certain species of fish now considered undesirable, but whose taste and food value are high. The literature is filled with examples. At one time scup was considered a trash fish, yet today, it is an important commercial and recreation species.

3. A new commercial fishing licensing structure that would discourage casual harvesters from competing in the marketplace with permanent full-time commercial fishermen. The casual harvester is not a reliable source of product for the consumer, does not usually participate in data collection activities, and they negatively influence the fish price structure.

4. Mariculture: There can be little doubt that the commercial fishing industry is going through a period of transition and change. Many of the old harvest methods will likely disappear (Muller, 1982; Ryther, 1981). These changes are a result of changes in population, demographics, pollution, competition from other nations, new technologies, the growth of the recreational industry and dramatic changes in the U.S. and world economic structure. These factors do not necessarily equate to the demise of the commercial fishing industry and it will not be possible to modify social and environmental factors quickly, if at all.

Wisdom would seem to mitigate a slow transition in the industry to match external changes. Indeed, most experts see a shift in commercial methods and efforts as essential for the future vitality of the industry (Bardach, 1981; Clark, 1981, Muller, 1982, Radovich, 1975). One of the keys to this transition would be a shift from a hunter-gatherer approach to a farming approach. This transition began to occur about 50,000 years ago in earnest on the land, and the time for it in the sea is long overdue.

Indeed, 82 countries are now actively engaged in mariculture. Organisms include everything from seaweed to shellfish to finfish (Muller, 1977; Ryther, 1981).

Pen-rearing of striped bass has been proven, even on a small scale, to be profitable and there are a number of species currently being pen-reared on a large scale. Some examples include tarpon, milkfish, mullet, puffer, and even bluefin tuna (Muller, 1977; Ryther, 1981). Small fish are available at modest cost from one of several hatcheries, now producing quantities of small striped bass for stocking in inland waters. There are several technical and procedural problems to be overcome, yet these are not very different from those experienced in starting any new industry. The State could assist in overcoming these problems by providing expertise and manpower through its many agencies and offices. (Universities, Dept. of Commerce, DEC, DuPont Chemical Co., Long Island Oyster Farm, Butler Flowers Oyster Co., etc.)

Some discussion has also centered around the effects of the legislation on the economic impact to the recreational industry. It is very important to understand that the two harvest methods are very different. It is possible, with modern commercial technology and equipment, to continue to pursue a species of fish for harvest profitably into extinction. This is not possible with recreational methods (Radovich, 1975). In recreational fishing, the fish must "select" to be caught by biting on a bait or line. This behavior is strongly influenced by competition from large numbers of other feeding fish. Under competitive conditions, the fish overlook irregularities in the bait or line and must respond very quickly. Nets are not selective. If a net surrounds a single fish, it will catch that fish.

Thus, the striped bass segment of the recreational industry has been living with economic hardship since the late 1970s. Although there have been occasional modest runs and flurries, these have been neither consistent nor widespread. For all intents and purposes the striped bass segment of the recreational industry is in limbo. Discussion, therefore, that the 1983 law will have a dramatic economic short-term effect is ludicrous. In recent years most recreational fishermen have not been able to catch any striped bass, and the few sharpies who do catch some cannot afford to seek them out selectively through the course of an entire season. Our surveys indicate most recreational

(Continued on page 43.)

1984
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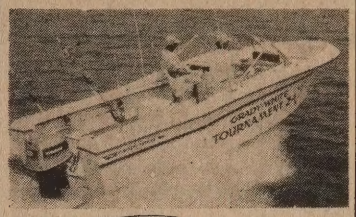

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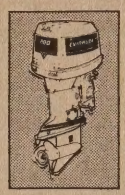

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MORE INFO ON DE PERSIA BOAT DRAIN

The article "Putting a Drain on Your Boat," featured in the Vol. 19, #3 edition of The Fisherman, sparked numerous requests for information on the drain made by DePersia Company and touted in the article. Those who have been unable to locate these fittings can contact the company directly by writing: DePersia Company, 178-76 Brucker Rd., Grand Haven, Michigan 49417 or phone (616) 842-2134.

STRIPED BASS EMERGENCY COUNCIL FORMED

A new Striped Bass Emergency Council, designed to help coordinate the growing coastwide campaign to preserve the striper, has been formed by Dick Russell of Boston, Massachusetts. The Council is urging all concerned citizens to write their U.S. Congressmen asking for consideration of possible emergency Federal legislation, as well as becoming involved in the state efforts for stronger regulations. Anyone interested in obtaining a list of Congressmen, or helping the Council in other ways, should get in touch with Dick Russell.

The Council has obtained non-profit, tax-deductible status, under the umbrella of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation. Financial contributions of whatever amount are welcome, to help defray Xeroxing, mailing, travel and other costs. Any charitable contributions should be made to: National Coalition for Marine Conservation (Striped Bass Emergency Council), c/0 27 Fort Avenue, Boston, MA 02119. Mr. Russell's office telephone number is (617) 442-8708.

BOATING SKILLS & SEAMANSHIP COURSE IN BROOKLYN

A course in Boating Safety and Seamanship will begin on Wednesday evening March 7, 1984 at 7:30 PM at Floyd Bennett Field in the Tower Bldg. #1, Brooklyn, New York. The course will run for 13 weeks. Registration is limited to the first 50 students.

The course will be given by USCG Auxiliary Flotilla 11-2. Subjects to be covered will include, Rules of the road, safety, marine engines, aids to navigation, use of charts and piloting.

Experienced Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors will present this course using Coast Guard approved text and related instructional materials. The lessons are designed for beginning and intermediate levels and family participation is encouraged.

The course is offered free, with a $30 fee for text and materials. Upon successful completion, registrants will receive a certificate from the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

For information and registration, please contact: Public Education Officer FLT 11-2, Richard Moser, 8514 Dumont Ave., Ozone Park, NY 11417. Evenings after 6:30 PM 843-0890.

BOATING SKILLS COURSE AT NORTHPORT

Flotilla 22-8, Fort Salonga, has scheduled course in Boating Skills and Seamanship, and Young (8-14) Boatmans Course, to be held at Northport High School, Rooms L111 and L113, from 7:30PM, Mondays and Thursdays, beginning March 5 through April 19, 1984.

For more information, call 368-2567.

BOATING SAFETY COURSE IN LEVITTOWN

Flotilla 13-11 will be giving its spring Boating Safety and Seamanship Class at Jonas Salk Junior High School in Levittown. The course is free of charge. There will be a nominal fee for materials.

The course will cover boating safety seamanship, marlinspike, piloting, rules of the road, weather and basic boat maintenance.

The course will run for 10 weeks, starting March 6th. The hours will be from 7:30 to 9:30 PM in the school cafeteria.

Also being given at the same time, the New York State Young Boatmans's Course. It will be given free of charge.

For further information, contact Mr. Howard Wolin, 826-7781.

SHANE'S MARINE HOLDING ELECTRONICS & PAINT SEMINAR

A free Loran, electronics, and paint seminar will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4 at Shane's Marine, 2560 Main St., Merrick Rd, Babylon, New York. Special guest speakers will include a US Coast Guard Officer explaining the use of Loran C for navigating and safety, Mr. Bill Korbel, WOR radio's head meteorologist speaking on "Forecasting Weather on the Water" and Nick Karas, Fishing editor and author discussing fishing with electronics.

These seminar talks will start at 10AM and will be repeated at 12-3 PM and 3PM each day. Some of the leading marine industry factories will have available their personnel and working displays at individual booths. There the boat owners may ask questions and also view the new 1984 merchandise. Some of the 14 factories represented are Si-Tex, Uniden, King, Aquameter, Teleflex, Hynatic, Interlux, and Pettit.

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Anglers everywhere will know about this great offer. There'll be a million dollars' worth of rebate coupons distributed nationally and an extensive advertising campaign in the most widely read fishing publications.

3. More sales

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4. More profits

More consumer appeal will generate more store visits. And more store visits will generate more sales and more profits . . . profits minus the headaches often associated with rebate programs. That's because Ryobi will handle all administrative work and costs. Qualified customers will receive rebates direct from Ryobi.

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Contact your Ryobi distributor for all the details. Or for more information about the Ryobi "Fishing Adventure of Your Lifetime" Sweepstakes and Rebate Program contact: Ryobi America Corp., 1158 Tower Lane, Bensenville, Illinois 60106.

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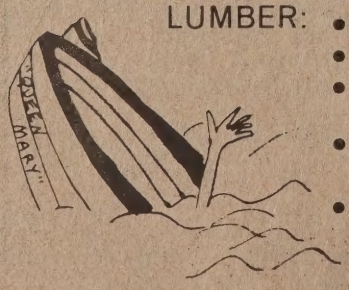

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NOR WEST FISHING CLUB LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS

The Nor West Fishing Club is looking for new members who are interested in surf or boat fishing. Contact Chip Albion at 516-587-0797.

TWO BOATING COURSES AT GLEN COVE HIGH SCHOOL

The U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Flotilla 12-3, will conduct two boating courses at the Glen Cove High School. A Basic Sailboat Course, starting Tuesday, March 6th at 8PM; and a Basic Powerboat course starting Wednesday, March 7th, at 8PM.

Each course will consist of nine sessions, serving as an introduction to seamanship, navigation rules, use of charts and safety on the waterways. For further information call, Flotilla Commander William Vincent at 676-3448. Or Public Education Officer, Herbert Levy at 681-3936.

OUTCAST ANGLERS ELECT NEW OFFICERS FOR '84

The Outcast Anglers announce their new officers for 1984 as follows: President—Phil Cook; Vice President—Rich Fedoroff; Treasurer—Bob Riterato; Secretary—Ed Kennedy; Members at Large—Bob Bauman, Mickey Goldstone, Bill Haga, Rich Ortmann, and Bob Topper.

Interested fishermen are cordially invited to our next general meeting to be held on the third Wednesday of the month at the Community Room in Newbridge Park in Bellmore at 8PM. Prospective members can call Bob Bauman at 799-6967 for information.

LONG ISLAND T.U. CHAPTER HOLDING AUCTION

The Long Island Chapter of Trout Unlimited will hold an auction for used tackle and outdoor sporting items on Thursday, March 15th at St. Marteen of Tours Church in Bethpage. This event is open to the general public. Anybody wishing to sell something should be at the Church at 7PM. There will be a 10 percent commission to the chapter.

SAFE BOATING COURSE OLD MORICHES H.S.

The Moriches Bay Power Squadron is pleased to announce that it will be conducting its Semi-Annual Safe Boating Course beginning Tuesday, March 6th at 8PM at the Old Moriches High School.

With boating accidents on the rise in our area, we feel it is especially important to reach as many boating enthusiasts as possible to offer them the opportunity to enroll in this course.

Further details on the course may be obtained by contacting Past Commander Warren G. Burch at (516) 878-1887, Commander Newton L. Homan at 878-1177 or our Educational Officer, Louis T. Vlismas at 878-4098.

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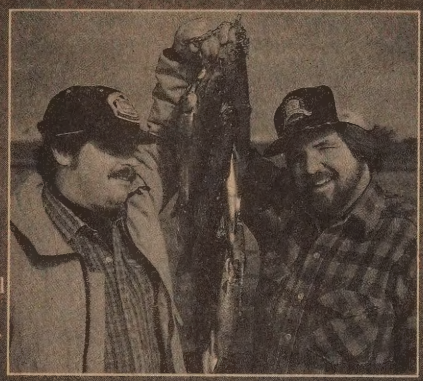

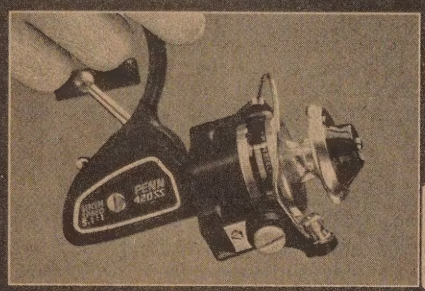

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N.Y. SPORT FISHING FEDERATION COMMENTS ON F.I.N.S. VEHICULAR USE

Mr. Jack Hauptman, Supt.
120 Laurel Street
Patchogue, N.Y. 11772
Dear Mr. Hauptman:

After studying the Environmental Assessment of alternate regulations for limiting beach vehicle use at Fire Island National Seashore, I would like to offer these few comments on behalf of the New York Sport Fishing Federation.

Our main concern is with the accessibility of this beach to mobile sport fishermen. Since surf fishing generally is confined to the months from April to early December, this fact alone will reduce the period for which we seek access. The beaches are closed to recreational ORVs during the summer months of mid-June to mid-September, further curtailing the impact of our presence.

Given the periodic emergency closings, when high tides force additional restrictions, the time span granted to surf fishermen to pursue their sport becomes short indeed. All this, when added to the brief interval when the game fish are present in the surf, results in a relatively short period of time that we can catch fish. Offsetting this limited usage, natural forces and non-recreational vehicles have 52 weeks of the year to continue their impact on the shore.

In Appendix E it is indicated that the majority of beach vehicles are non-recreational. In addition, I wonder how many of the recreational vehicles are true surf fishermen and not joyriders who just wish to test their 4X4. This is especially puzzling when their entry is taking place at a time of the year when virtually no surf fishing is taking place. Possibly a percentage of these vehicles are hunters, but what season is open in February and March?

If the shoreline is being buffeted by severe storms we can agree with the temporary closings you practice now. The most important consideration is the well-being of a valuable resource, but coastal storms have wreaked havoc on our beaches long before the automobile was invented. Given the recent proliferation of 4X4s and the need to provide all users the opportunity to enjoy this resource, we can agree with the restrictions outlined in Alternate B. We would like to point out a few specific proposals which we feel are important to our access.

If the increased beach traffic ever reaches a point where limitations are being considered for recreational ORVs, we feel that sportsmen, but hunters and fishermen, should be given preference. This criterion has already been established by both Federal studies and New York State policy. Any limitations, such as the 30 vehicle total suggested in Alternate C, would be unacceptable.

Finally, we question the proposal, to ban driving in the 20-foot zone seaward of the edge of the beach grass, until further study has shown it to be necessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our views known to the Park Service. *John J. Fritz, Beach Access Chrm, NY Sport Fishing Fed.*

CALIFORNIA COLUMNIST EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER EAST COAST STRIPER STOCKS

Did you ever wonder if it could happen here? Consider the story that ran in the New York Times recently about the "end of the line for striped bass."

Emergency measures will have to be taken to rid the striped bass on the Atlantic Seaboard from the danger of extinction.

According to National Marine Fisheries biologist John Borman, a congressional-mandated study has found that the commercial catch of striped bass plummeted from a high of 15 million pounds in 1973 to 2 million pounds last year.

The reason, said Richard Russell, who hosted a sportsman's conference on the future of the striped bass, is that Chesapeake Bay is polluted and commercial fishermen have put too much pressure on the fragile population of striped bass.

A survey showed that the reproductive success of the striped bass in Chesapeake Bay, which historically has supplied 90 percent of the fish, "has reached a level approaching zero."

"We are in an eleventh-hour situation for the striped bass," Russell said.

Now the Atlantic states in cooperation with the federal government has put higher minimum size limits on striped bass, pushing it to 24 inches, six inches over the length at which they begin spawning.

It's a shame that sport fishing has come to such a sad dilemma. I shiver at the thought that man has made things so rotten in the crowded East Coast states that now the bass may not be able to survive in the place where it is native.

Striped bass are not native to the West Coast. They were brought here aboard the transcontinental railroad in 1879 by two biologists—Livingston Stone and Stephen Throckmorton—who seined them from the Navesink River at Red Bank in New Jersey. Exactly 132 of the 162 small stripers survived the stifling July journey. A second planting of 300 stripers occurred in 1882 at Suisun Bay.

From those few hundred fish the

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population rapidly grew to millions after the turn of the century and once supported a commercial fishery here on the West Coast.

California biologists soon realized that the transplanted striper would face grim consequences if commercial fishing persisted. That was stopped in the 1950s, limits were eventually lowered from five fish to three fish and more recently to two fish. The minimum legal size was raised from 16 inches to 18 inches, we called for the sale of striped bass stamps to improve the fishery and we urged power companies and the state and federal water projects to curtail their activities when stripers migrate by or spawn in the vicinity of their massive intake pumps and we have cleaned up the Bay considerably in the last two decades, imposing strict penalties on those who pollute it.

Now, I am optimistic that the adult striper population which has staggered at the one million mark after falling from millions of ocean-run bass is showing initial signs of a rebound.

Anglers on the West Coast are concerned about their striped bass sport fishery and are doing something to maintain it. We're even learning a lot about the landlocked population through stamp-supported studies looking into the survivability of a freshwater fishery that accidentally resulted from the diversion of Delta water.

The Elk Grove hatchery in the south central valley is putting more and more yearling stripers back into the Bay-Delta system. The fishing's going to get pretty good around here once again but only because the problems were identified by environmentalists and the media and something is being done about them.

I just wish the commercial fishermen on the Atlantic Coast would learn a lesson from all of this. They have opposed a ban on taking stripers and they argue that it is not their fishing, but environmental problems that are causing the decline.

I say they should quit pointing fingers at each other and follow suit with what we've done right here in Martinez and Antioch and throughout Northern California where the striper was first introduced in the West.

There were plenty of bass when the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock. And now the bass, the mighty "rock" of the Atlantic, is on the verge of being reduced to pebbles and eventually grains of sand. That's enough to make an Indian cry. *Keith Rogers, Contra Costa Times.*

ATTENTION:
FISHERMAN READERS

If you have a question or opinion concerning topics contained within The Fisherman, send a letter addressed to: Chum Lines, The Fisherman, P.O. Box 1994, Sag Harbor, N.Y. 11963. Letters should be typed or printed neatly and kept short and kept as concise as possible.

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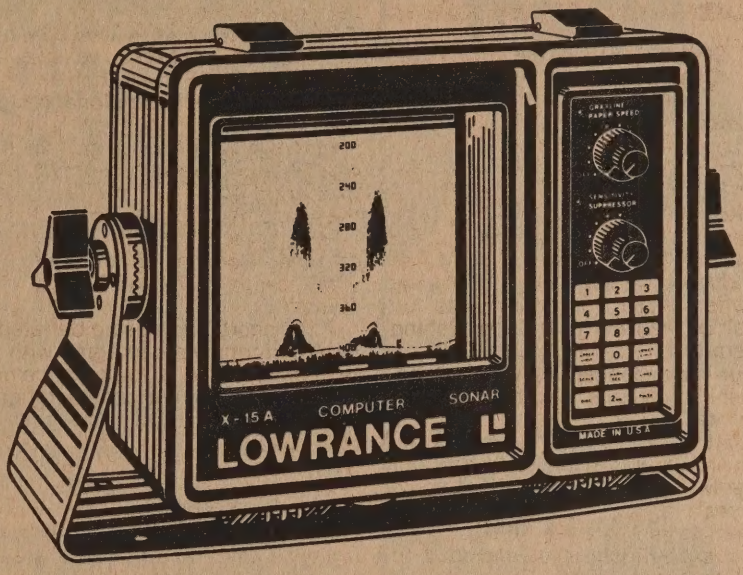

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WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 29TH

4:00 Deep sea fishing with Capt. Greg Dubrule.
4:30 Fly casting demo with Lou Tabory at casting pool.
5:30 Fishing New York's 1000 Islands with Ed Mendus.
7:00 Hudson River fishing with Tom Lake.
7:30 Fly casting demo with Steve Rajeff at casting pool.
8:30 Bass fishing movie featuring Uncle Homer.

THURSDAY, MARCH 1ST

3:00 Fly casting demo with Lou Tabory at casting pool.
3:30 Fishing with sonar, flash and graph recorders with Mark Ames.
4:30 Bass fishing with Billy Westmorland.
5:30 Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon with Capt. Bill Kelley.
7:00 Arctic Char fishing movie with Jack Hegarty.
7:30 Fly casting demo with Steve Rajeff at casting pool.
8:30 Bass fishing with Bill Westmorland.

FRIDAY, MARCH 2ND

4:00 Striped bass fishing with World Record setter Bob Rochetta.
5:00 Fly casting demo with Harry Wilson.
5:30 Hudson River fishing with Tom Lake.
7:00 Bass fishing with Billy Westmorland.
7:30 Fly casting demo with Steve Rajeff at casting pool.
8:00 Wild Turkey hunting and calling with World Champion Dick Kirby.

SATURDAY, MARCH 3RD

11:00 Striped bass fishing with World Record setter Bob Rochetta.
11:30 Fly casting demo with Harry Wilson at casting pool.
12:15 New Zealand fly fishing with Ernest Schwiebert.
1:30 Distance casting with John Holden and Ken Lauer at casting pool.
2:00 Eastern Open Wild Turkey Calling Contest.
4:00 Fly casting demo with Steve Rajeff at casting pool.
4:30 Lake Ontario Trout and Salmon fishing with Capt. Bill Kelley.
5:30 Deep sea fishing with Capt. Greg Dubrule.

SUNDAY, MARCH 4TH

11:30 Fishing Long Island Sound with Fred Luks and Ted Keatley.
12:00 Fly casting demo with Steve Rajeff at casting pool.
12:30 Fishing with sonar, flash and graph recorders with Ernie Schleusener.
1:30 Rainbows of the Katmai with Ernest Schwiebert.
2:30 Distance casting with John Holden at casting pool.
3:00 Mako shark fishing with Fisherman Magazine Editor, Pete Barrett.
4:30 Bass fishing movie featuring Uncle Homer.

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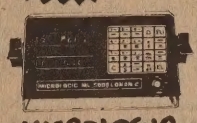

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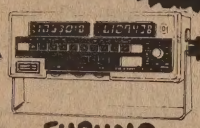

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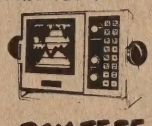

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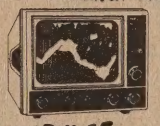

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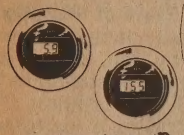

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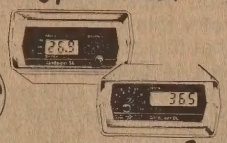

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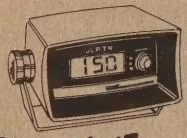

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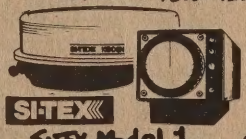

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READER'S VIEWPOINT:

ON THE FATE OF FORT HERO

by John Fritz

EDITOR'S NOTE: The future of the Camp Hero base at Montauk has been an area of prime interest among environmentalists, fishermen, the State of New York and the Town of East Hampton. It now apears that a genuine possibility exists to preserve the land in its natural state. The following views are those of regular LIF contributor John Fritz and Bill Miller, Executive Director of United Mobile Sportfishermen.

On February 8, 1984, the General Services Administration received bids on the sale of 278 acres of surplus land located at Fort Hero in Montauk. These unique acres could wind up being ravished by the bulldozer or they could be saved for park and recreational use. The Federal branch of the General Services Administration wants payment for this property and has stated it intends to sell it to the highest bidder.

The New York Department of State has informed the GSA of the numerous environmentally damaging consequences if the sale and subsequent development is allowed to occur. Not the least of which is the permanent loss of unparalleled habitat and a prime recreational area.

Federal Judge Leonard Wexler has issued a preliminary injunction to allow GSA to receive bids for the property, but not to accept any, until a full hearing on the issue is held; probably in the immediate future. At that time, he will either lift the injunction and allow for the sale to proceed or issue a permanent injunction, thereby prohibiting the sale.

In the interim, Senator Moynihan, wtih strong support from Senator D'Amato, has submitted a bill to transfer this land to the State of New York without cost. We have been assured that this bill will probably pass the Senate without difficulty. A companion bill (HR 4405) sponsored by Rep. Carney and supported by an overwhelming majority of area congressmen is stalled in the House Subcommittee on Government Activities and Transportation. The chairperson of this committee, Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, is instrumental in preventing the advance of the bill to the full Committee. These bills must pass Congress before the court case is decided, otherwise the court may allow the sale to proceed. It is important to persuade area congressmen to become co-sponsors and supporters of the Carney bill to exert additional pressure on the Subcommittee Chairperson to vote the bill out of the Subcommittee. Readers are strongly urged to contact their congressmen, ask them to co-sponsor the bill, thank them if they already have and do what they can to induce Congresswoman Collins to free the bill from committee.

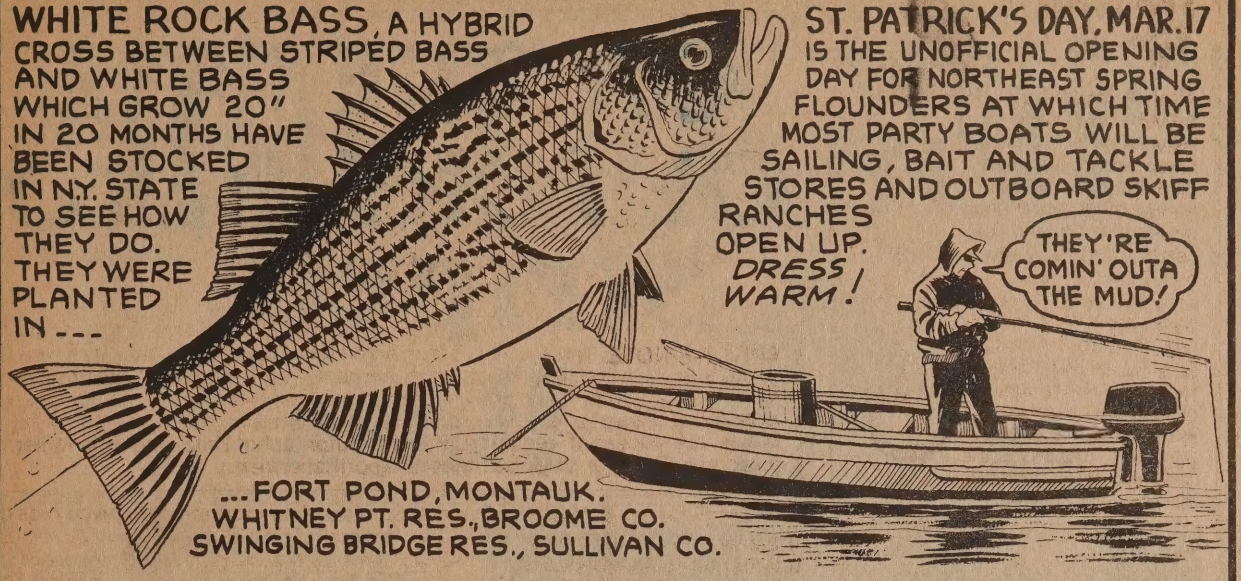
In addition, it is imperative that a second phone call or mailgram be directed to Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, forcefully requesting that she allow her bill to clear her subcommittee. Mailgrams can be sent to: Congresswoman Cardiss Collins, B350, Rayburn House Office Bldg., U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515. Those desiring more direct contact, can call (202) 225-5006 and ask to speak with her Legislative Aide, Mr. Quinn Romney. Tell him of the pressing need to preserve the Montauk land.

You can now be involved in a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to secure a most precious piece of our heritage for future generations. Do not delay! Time is of the essence! MAKE THOSE CALLS NOW!

MARCH HAPPENINGS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

WHITE ROCK BASS, A HYBRID CROSS BETWEEN STRIPED BASS AND WHITE BASS WHICH GROW 20" IN 20 MONTHS HAVE BEEN STOCKED IN N.Y. STATE TO SEE HOW THEY DO. THEY WERE PLANTED IN ---



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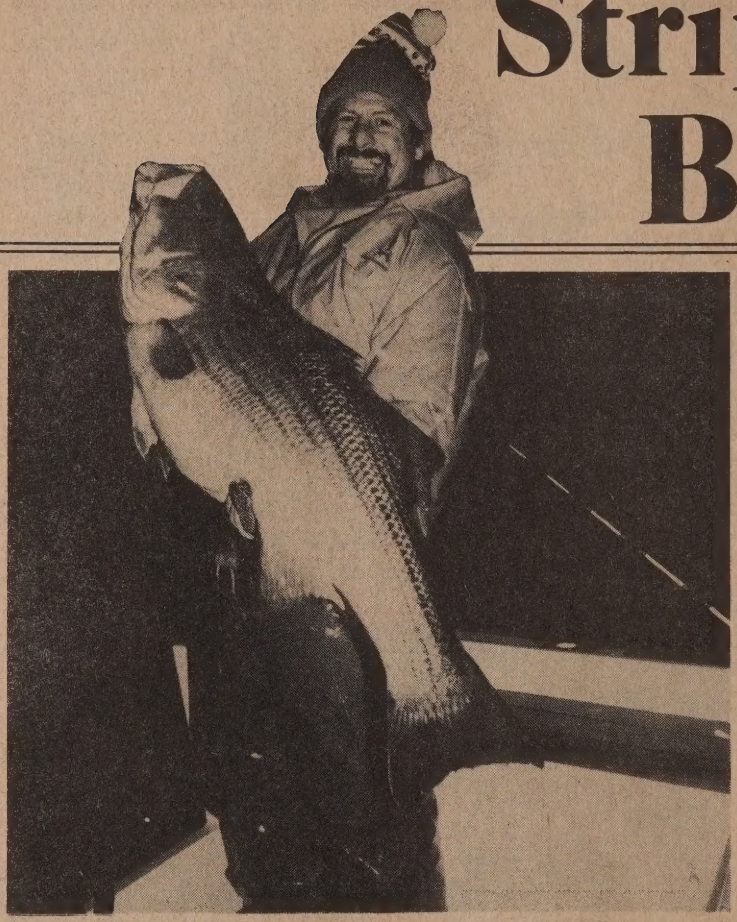

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—POLLUTION IN THE CHESAPEAKE—

DECLINE OF THE STRIPER

by Stephen Crocker & Dick Russell

The scene was a meeting room at National Marine Fisheries Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. Around a conference table, government officials sat listening to Federal scientists discuss their findings in the $5 million Emergency Striped Bass Study. Finally, Joseph Kutkuhn (chief of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service) shook his head in dismay and said: "We're talking about a resource in double jeopardy." Scientist Phil Goodyear had only a one-word reply: "Yes."

"Double jeopardy" for the striped bass means overfishing and pollution. In the interim report that scientists presented to the U.S. Congress on February 14, there was no single cause that could be pinpointed as the reason for the rapid disappearance of the most prized fish species of the Atlantic Coast.

But what the scientists told Congress is clear enough: "The coastal migratory stock cannot support the level of fishing mortality that currently exists." The current interstate management plan will not increase egg production enough to bring back the striper population. What must happen, say the scientists, is an immediate and substantial reduction in harvest, "not to exclude consideration of a total moratorium."

That is recommendation number one. Other measures being called for include investigating the feasibility of hatcheries as a supplement to natural reproduction; continuing to monitor the abundance of juvenile fish and to investigate the causes for the decline; and "to reduce the discharge of toxic materials into the nursery and spawning habitats."

The Fisherman has devoted many articles to the necessity of cutting back the striper harvest, and the ensuing controversies in Rhode Island, New York, Maryland and elsewhere over how to achieve this. The controversies are certain to continue and perhaps intensify. But what is equally certain is that, if the Chesapeake Bay is not cleaned up, a moratorium or other necessary measures to restrict fishing will not alone be the answer. Historically, the Chesapeake spawning area has produced up to 90 percent of the coastal migratory stripers. Let's look now at what has gone wrong, in a Chesapeake region once described by Captain John Smith as "a fruitfull and

delightsome land."

The condition of the Chesapeake has never been so bad. The striper is not the only fish which has suffered so dramatically. But because it is a freshwater spawner, it is particularly sensitive to the forms of pollution which are destroying the Bay. One hundred years ago, the bass and other freshwater spawners accounted for 25 percent of the commercial fishing in the Bay; today, such fish constitute only four percent of the annual harvest. Over the past decade, the Chesapeake has witnessed the virtual disappearance of the sturgeon, croaker, weakfish and yellow perch. Shad

(Continued on next page.)

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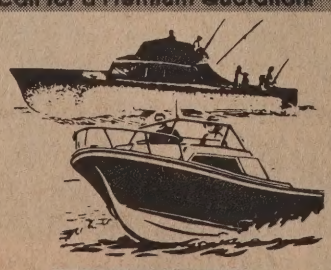

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populations have suffered so much that Maryland was forced to ban any harvesting in 1980. Seventy years ago, alewife harvests were seven times what they are now. Oysters, perhaps the greatest source of income for Bay watermen, are also at a precarious point of existence.

One of the most overwhelming signs of trouble in the Bay is the vanishing of underwater vegetation. These grasses are one of the most dependable indicators of water quality. They provide food for small forms of life upon which the striper feeds, as well as protection for juvenile fish. They control erosion, help filter pollution and, like all other plants, produce oxygen. Since 1970, **80 percent** of these underwater grasses have disappeared.

But another form of plant life is thriving now. Popularly referred to as "that green scum," algae is having a field day with the excessive amount of nutrients now entering the Bay. The number of different sources of this surplus of nutrients is staggering. It comes from lawn fertilizer, animal waste, storm runoff from urban and suburban areas, and construction sites. It comes along with sediments and insecticides and herbicides and toxic chemicals. Much of it comes from farm runoff and the effluent from sewage treatment plants. Nutrition is generally thought to be a good thing, but too much of a good thing causes algae populations to explode. The "green scum" blocks the sunlight needed by the Bay grasses. And when the algae dies, it decays, burning up oxygen in the process.

So the disappearance of underwater grasses and the proliferation of algae are the effects. The causes are frighteningly numerous. Two nuclear power plants and 15 smaller fossil-fuel burning plants exist on the shores of the Chesapeake and its tributaries. The cooling systems of these power plants return water to the Bay ten degrees higher than they take it in. Chlorine is used to clean the cooling-water intakes of the power plants and to kill bacteria in sewage water-treatment plants. But chlorine also can kill fish larvae and much of the microscopic marine life that supports the food chain of the entire Bay.

Then there is the question of acid rain. In the spring, when the bass spawn, come heavy rains and the melting of snow. This means a concentrated deluge of acidic water into the Bay at the most critical time of the bass' life. The optimum pH level for the bass is 8. In some rivers feeding into the Chesapeake, pH levels are down in the fives. Bass are never seen in these rivers. Big rainfalls always seem to be followed by the loss of small fish. Fingerlings don't like acidic water, and they will go to the waters with the right pH even if the oxygen content is too low or the food supply is inadequate. And after a big rainfall, newborn fish often cannot survive the shock of sudden changes in pH levels.

The lower pH levels that come with acid rain also make some contaminants more toxic. Toxics are poisons, which can retard growth or kill outright. They include heavy metals like lead herbicides and pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons, chlorine and a huge assortment of synthetic organic compounds that make their way into the Bay from the many chemical plants and paint factories. A completed study done at one laboratory clearly demonstrated that this contaminant "cocktail" does cause significantly increased mortality of striped bass larvae. But scientists cannot isolate one pollutant that is killing the bass; it is a combination of everything, and this makes the problem even harder to solve.

It is only in the last few months that a formal statement has been made that the Bay is in deep trouble. A comprehensive clean-up plan is only in the beginning stages. It is too big a job for individual states; national help is desperately needed. We are talking about a five-state watershed which covers some 64,000 square miles and contains a population of 12.7 million. The Bay is an enormous system of swamps, tiny streams and large rivers, as well as the open waters of the Chesapeake itself.

Recently, the Environmental Protection Agency concluded a 10-year study with the recommendation that the states and the EPA jointly develop a water-quality management plan to reduce the flow of nutrients into the Bay, implement a Bay-wide monitoring and research program, and offer assistance to farmers and landowners for soil conservation and sediment control.

The EPA report also calls for reducing chlorine in sewage-treatment plants, controlling urban storm water runoff, and developing programs to better handle herbicides and pesticides. They estimate a cost between $1 billion and $3 billion over the next 20 years. Yet the EPA still opposes earmarking funds for a general Bay clean-up because they want to "direct our efforts and resources where the need is greatest." The Regan Administration is no friend of the cause. The Administration recently announced opposition to a bill to spend $40 million to help Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania in their clean-up efforts.

On the face of it the situation appears hopeless. Organic chemicals and heavy metals have been found in the body tissue of adult bass, eggs and fry sampled at all locations by the Federal scientists. Maryland biologists have noted tremendous die-offs of newborn stripers in the Chesapeake rivers within three or four weeks after hatching, in each of the past four years. Starvation, due to the apparent lack of plankton to feed upon, is believed to be the primary cause.

But despite this grim picture, it must be remembered that the striper

is nonetheless a determined survivor. The Hudson River population, for example, has an even higher level of PCBs and DDT in the adult females. The Hudson fish have poorer backbone strength and swimming ability. Yet, because there has been a ban on commercial fishing for Hudson stripers since 1976 due to high PCB levels, there **is** a much higher rate of reproductive survival. Last year's young-of-the-year survey was the second highest ever recorded in the Hudson. By contrast, the Chesapeake survey was the second lowest.

The scientists are insistent that it's the **combination** of contaminant-caused mortality and fishing pressure that's to blame for the decline. One cause magnifies the other. Even with the terrible environmental problems in the Chesapeake, if more adult stripers survive to have the opportunity to spawn, the chances for reproduction are much better. But the bass cannot survive **both** causes, and the only **immediate** problem that can be addressed is the fishing.

Maryland officials, looking for a quick fix, are touting a massive hatchery program as a solution. But as Dr. John Borman of the National Marine Fisheries Service says, "Our investigators agree that hatchery-raised bass could eventually contribute to the natural population. But we are not ready to recommend dumping in 10 to 30 million fingerlings. What is the cost and who will bear it? I'm also very hesitant about a put-and-take fishery in the Bay. Only if you reduce fishing pressure could hatchery-raised fish have a chance to contribute."

Ben Florence, a Maryland biologist who's been studying the hatchery proposal, says that even to increase the young-of-the-year index by a figure of **one**, it would cost $1 million. To obtain the land, build the hatcheries and put them into production, the total might go as high as $50 million. It would be **far** cheaper to subsidize the commercial fishermen, as the government has done with farmers, until the bass recover.

In the coming months, the Federal scientists will focus their research in the field. Until now, most of the studies have been conducted in laboratories. Now the Study team will spend close to $500,000 analyzing the bass populations in Bay rivers and researching the acid rain problem in the spawning tributaries, among other things. At the same time, in Maryland and Virginia, the Governors are seeking to intensify the general Bay clean-up effort.

All that can be hoped for is that our elected officials, responding to the $5 million Emergency Striped Bass Study and the $27 million EPA Bay study, will take steps to help the states wage the war against pollution. In the meantime, the most we can do for the striped bass is to cut back our fishing to the utmost, put pressure on the legislators to do what's right—and keep our fingers crossed.

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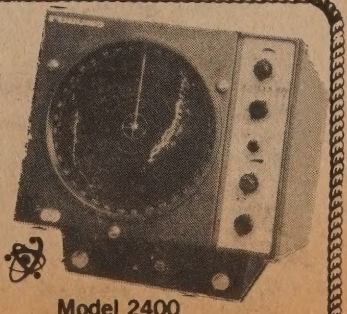

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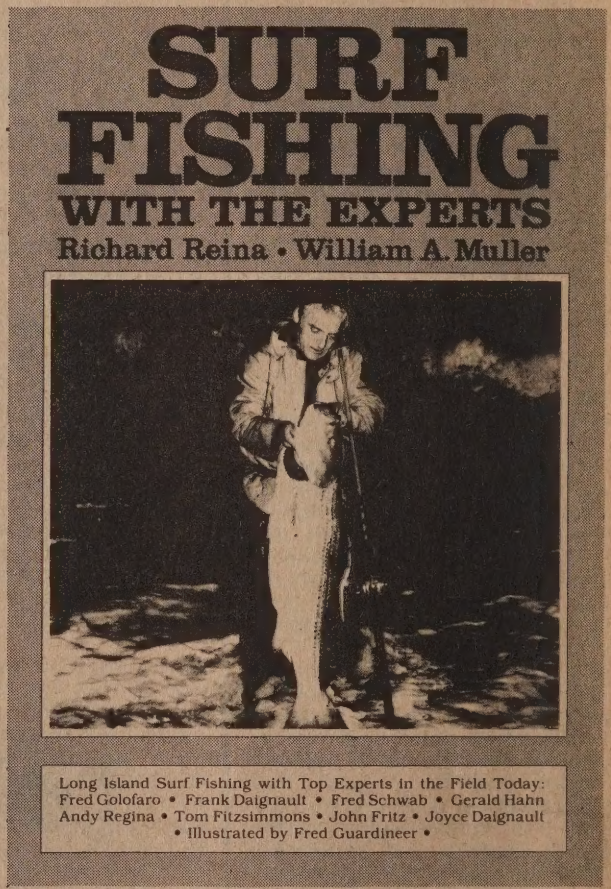
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FIELD TEST REPORT: PENN 850SS SURF REEL

by William A. Muller

I'd like to state up front, before getting into nitty-gritty details about the good and bad points discovered, that this is the best large surf reel (new product) that it has been my pleasure to test. That statement out of the way, so that there can be no doubt that this product has my endorsement, I'd like to also point out that the opening statement should not be interpreted to mean that there aren't other good large surf reels on the market. Indeed, we have offered field test reports on a number of large reels in previous issues from prior years. We are fortunate in this day of high technology to be able to select from a variety of brands and models that offer superior performance and quality. Check previous issues for details.

The decision to purchase a new surf reel may not be a simple one. It might appear to be a simple process, but close examination reveals there are often many factors to be weighed and judged. For example, price, size, and specific design features. Thus we offer this on-going series of field test reports, and the reader contemplating the purchase of a new reel is encouraged to review all the articles for maximum information exposure.

For example. The Penn 850SS is a big reel. In fact, it is the heaviest we have used. Some people might require a smaller and lighter model for their needs, and thus, we suggest any of a number of slightly smaller reels that we found to be very good, including the Penn 750SS and Daiwa BG60. Another factor might be the price and one couldn't argue with the surf fisherman who chooses to buy a specific brand and model from an array of similar quality reels because a certain model is marked down in a big sale.

However, if you fish for big fish in the surf, throw large plugs and heavy sinkers and baits, you'll find this reel will do the job!

I received the reel in late winter for field testing. I decided to put it on my eleven foot Lamiglass S glass stick. This outfit only gets heavy duty work; so a season of fishing with it would certainly be a big test. When I expect weakfish or must use small lures I generally use a 10 foot Ugly Stik, but when the game is to be big bass or big blues, the S glass outfit gets the nod.

I found that the large spool width gave me extra distance and casting was a bit smoother. I had converted the reel from a bail model to a manual pick-up before I even put it on the rod and this manual bail I found initially to be a bit tricky. The manual pick-up has the standard roller, but also features a one-quarter inch length of rugged stainless wire. It took a little testing to adjust the angle on this wire in order to avoid line pick-up on the cast. Once I found the correct position, I had no more problems. A word of caution should you buy this reel and use the manual conversion kit. Tighten the screw behind the roller that holds the position of the stainless wire stub as tight as you can without breaking off the head of the screw. If you don't, it will eventually loosen.

The first fish I caught with the reel was a husky teen-sized bass. I was delighted with the performance of the drag. Although I prefer Teflon

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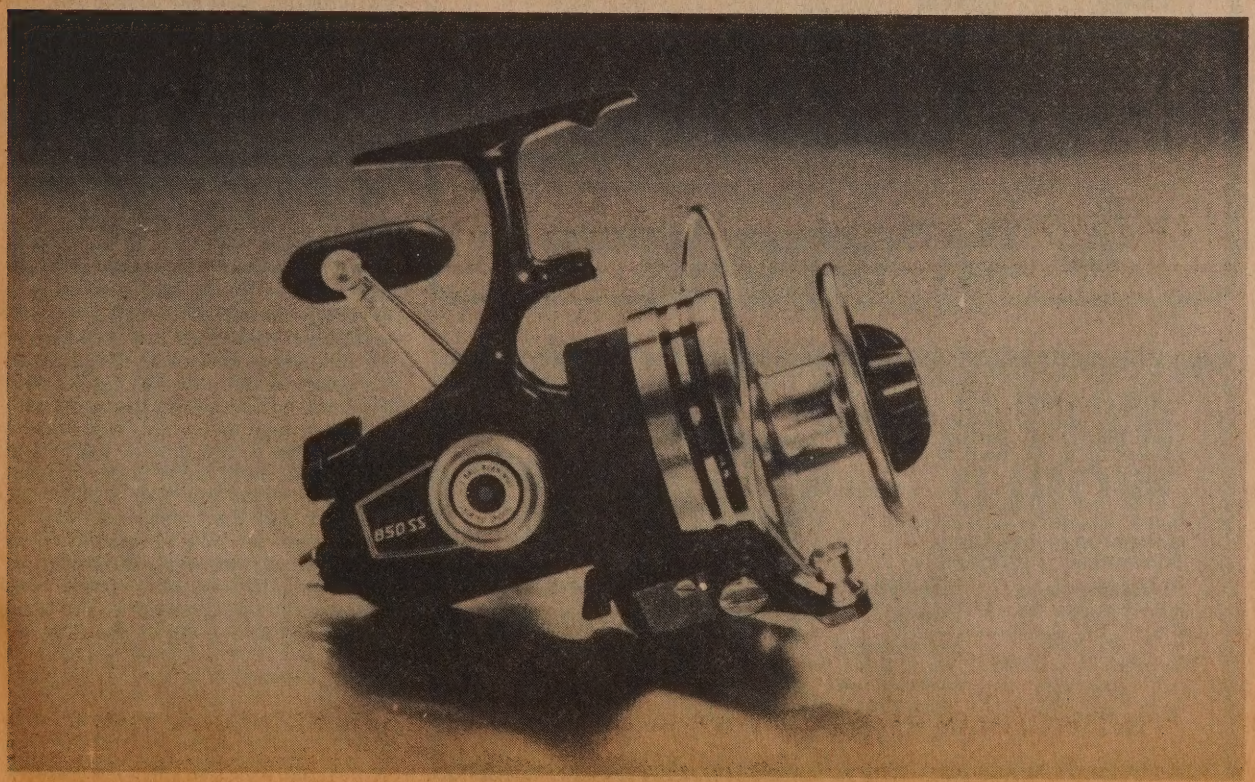

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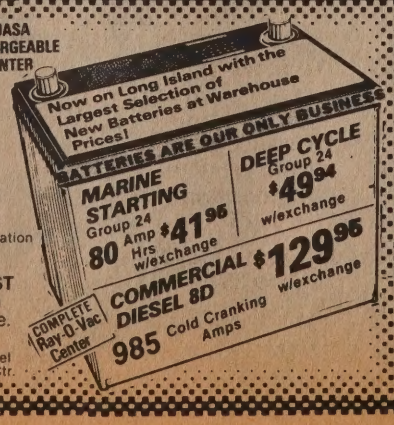


washers and this reel uses a more conventional washer system, the drag was smooth, without stuttering, and yet I was able to maintain control of the fish. That is, the drag did not "leave go" in spurts of changeable drag resistance. I was able to maintain a steady pressure on the fish whether it was running, holding its position, or coming in. When you're fighting big fish that's an important feeling of security to have.

I didn't have much additional action on this outfit until the fall when the big blues hit the beach along the south shore. Those of you who were fishing know that these blues were monsters for the most part with very few fish under 12 pounds and some going to 20. Fish that big really test the mettle of a reel. Yet it wasn't only the big blues that gave the reel a workout—it was the conditions, too. On almost every outing the reel was underwater as much as it was above the water, and again on almost every trip the reel was doused regularly with a saltwater and fine sand combination that invariably kicks up when waves crash around you. Winds up to 40 knots also buffeted the reel with sand lifted from the beach and driven through the air at high velocity, stinging the face and hands, and attempting to sand blast boots, spikes, and tackle.

I recall one trip in which I fished from about 9AM until dusk for teen-sized blues. I took fish steadily all day under extreme conditions. The wind howled out of the northeast reaching velocities of at least 40 knots. The sea was wild with waves crashing in several directions. It was impossible to fish for these fish from the dry beach due to a combination of beach topography, crowded conditions, the distance of the fish off the surf line, and the difficulty of casting under such extreme wind conditions. Thus, at the end of the day, I was wet from head to toe in spite of waders and a pullover top, and the reel was under silty sandy water most of the day. Although I would have liked to clean the reel that night, I was much too tired to do so, but I did open that reel the next day. Needless to say, I was expecting water in the reel and salt encrusted in the handle stem and in the drag mechanism. I was surprised to discover that there was no water in the housing—not a drop! I examined the design and found that the housing and housing cover were designed with a deep groove meshing. Thus, with a little grease in the groove water was not able to enter even under modest pressure. Also, the seal around the bearings and the crosswind shaft as well as the reel handle bearing cover were tight, so that water did not enter at these points either. There was virtually no salt crystals in the drag mechanism and a test of the drag by pulling out line by hand proved the mechanism was still working smoothly.

The only place where salt crystals affected performance was in the reel handle spindle, so that the spindle

rotated more slowly than usual around the arm sprindle. However, it did not seize and was still working. I was pleasantly surprised to find that I did not have to take the reel down to its parts. Rather I had only to wash it with water, spray with WD-40, wipe dry, and go fishing.

The skirted spool design was very effective in keeping sand out of the reel and this was a big plus in the strong winds which would have driven sand into the space between the cup and the spool on non-skirted spool models.

The bail roller also continued to function well even under the worst of conditions. After that first experience, I didn't even bother to strip the reel at regular intervals. I wanted to see how much punishment the reel could take. After each trip I sprayed the reel with WD-40, wiped it off, and fished again. At the end of the season, I took the reel apart to see how much damage my neglect had created. The result: there was no wear, no corrosion, no salt crystal build up, and still no water in the housing. Now, I'm very demanding when it comes to drags, and I'll tell you that drag was working just as well at the end of the season as it was when I started.

I do not recommend such abuse. In fact, I recommend a regular schedule of maintenance for any reel that is pressed into heavy service. However, I was field testing, but you'll want your reel to last as long as possible. Thus, follow the schedule of cleaning and maintenance as suggested by the manufacturer in the instruction manual that comes with the reel.

You may agree or disagree with the need for quiet and elusiveness when fishing the surf. However, if you believe a surf fisherman should be barely seen and not heard at all, then you'll like the feature that allows you to silence the anti-reverse. There are two black levers on the housing. One turns the anti-reverse mechanism on and off, while the other leaves the mechanism engaged, but allows you to silence it.

In the past I've been critical of Penn's reel handle design. I've pointed out that the angle of attachment of the handle to the housing was awkward on some models. However, on the 850SS the design is perfect.

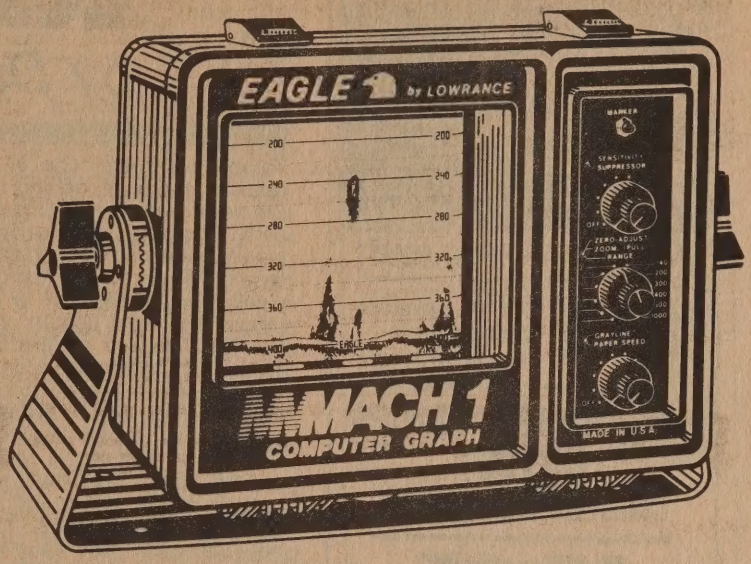
This reel is a high speed retrieve reel which can be very important in retrieving plugs at a fast pace along the surface for blues.

One last point. In spite of the very heavy duty work I asked this reel to do, even the outside paint job was unmarred. The following are also features of the reel:

Handle convertible for right and left hand drive; naval bronze gear, precision cut teeth; stainless steel pinion gear; three stainless steel ball bearings; stainless steel bail; collapsible handle; stainless steel roller, hard chrome plated; gold anodized aluminum spool.

I recommend this reel for heavy surf use without reservation.

THE DIFFERENCE IS PERFECTLY CLEAR.



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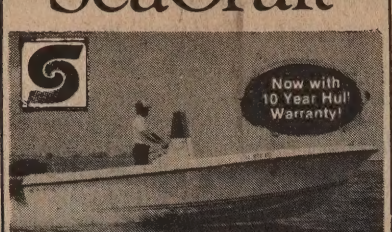

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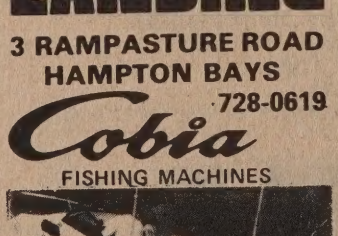

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"REDFIN"

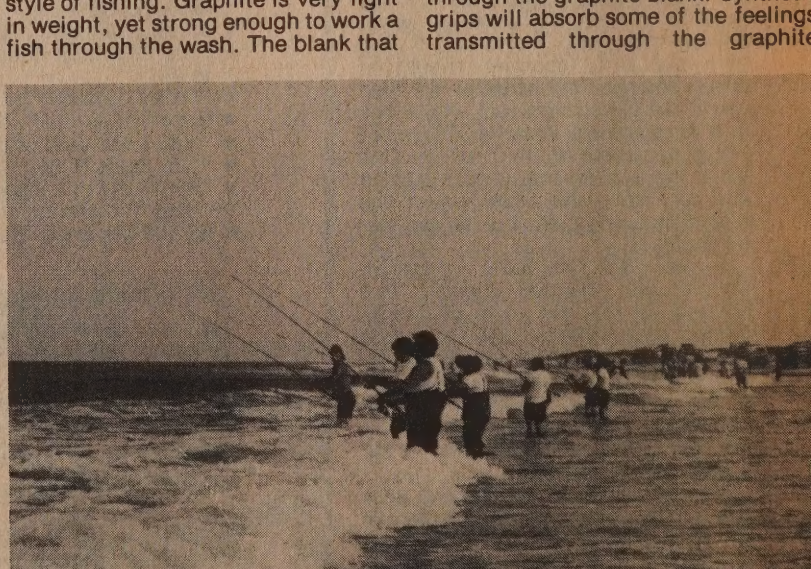
by Dave Arbeitman & Gr

To many anglers, one of the most relaxing forms of fishing is walking the beach with light tackle during the early morning and early evening hours in search of striped bass. This is strictly fishing with artificials, mostly small plugs in the half to one ounce range. The most popular plug is the RedFin, followed closely by Rebels, Rapalas, Bombers and Mirrolures. As you can see, based on the plugs and light tackle, these fishermen are seeking the smaller "schoolie" sized fish. The fishing is concentrated around plugging the wash, the pockets at the foot of the jetties and along the close-in bars. Stripers are not the only fish caught by this method. Most self-respecting weakfish and bluefish can't resist attacking any one of these small plugs. Even fluke have been known to succumb to this method of fishing. These light plugs work the best with 8 to 10 pound test line. You'll need a rod light enough to throw these plugs and with enough backbone to it so that you can land your fish and get your plug back.

For this type of fishing, we feel that a graphite blank is the best way to go. Graphite's features complement this style of fishing. Graphite is very light in weight, yet strong enough to work a fish through the wash. The blank that we recommend for your "Redfin" rod is the J Kennedy Fisher X4986. This blank is 90 percent graphite, rated for 6 to 20 pound line, and it is 7' 2" long. The blank not only features a fast action, it also has a "soft" tip. This lets you cast the light plugs almost effortlessly. For this type of fishing, you don't need a long rod because the plugs are light and the fish are close to the beach. Many fishermen become so concerned about distance, that they cast their plugs beyond the fish, while the guy with the "little rod" plugging the wash nails the fish.

We suggest the Fuji FPS 16 reel seat for your rod. It is the smallest reel seat that Fuji makes. It is graphite and nylon with stainless steel. They are very light and strong. Before installing your reel seat, make sure that the reel you'll be using fits the reel seat. If the foot of your reel is too long for the reel seat, use the next larger size—the Fuji FPS 18.

As with all graphite rods, we recommend using cork rings for your grips. Cork requires more work than synthetic grips, but they are worth the extra effort. The cork grips won't absorb any of the feelings transmitted through the graphite blank. Synthetic grips will absorb some of the feelings transmitted through the graphite



Summer surf fisher

ROD

nt Toman

blank because the grips are soft and they act as shock absorbers. The decision between cork grips and synthetic grips comes down to personal preference. It is your rod; build it the way you want it.

Grip lengths should be based on what suits you the best. The rear grip does not have to be a long one. All that is needed is about an eight inch rear grip. This enables you to hold onto the rear grip while casting and just flip your plug out. When you hook up with a fish, this length fits comfortably under your forearm for extra support. Rear grips that are too long usually get in the way while you're casting. Rear grips that are too short put a lot of strain on your wrist while fighting a fish. The length of your foregrip is not critical. In reality, the foregrip on a spinning rod is more cosmetic than it is functional. As an arbitrary figure, you can make your foregrip half the length of your rear grip.

The final consideration for your plugging rod is guide selection. We recommend Fuji Silicon Carbide guides for this rod. These guides are very smooth, plus they dissipate heat quickly—two important factors when fishing light line. We use two different styles of guides on this rod. The first guide down from the tip is a Fuji SG guide. This is a single foot silicon carbide fly rod guide. The size is an SG-7, that is a #7 ring size. The next four guides are Fuji LVSG guides. These are Fuji's single foot, silicon carbide spinning guides. The reason for using the one fly rod guide is simple: Fuji does not make a #7 ring in the LVSG series.

Altogether, the rod is built with five guides plus a tip-top. The top is a Fuji LST 7-5. This is a #7 ring with a #5 tube. The Guides needed are: 1-SG-7, 1-LVSG-8, 1-#12, 1-#20 and 1-#30. The guide spacing is done by measuring from the center ring of one guide to the center ring of the next. The guide spacing from the tip down is: 6½, 7, 8, 9½ and 12 inches.

Plugging the beach with light tackle is a very relaxing way to enjoy the greatest sport in the world—fishing. You might go through long periods of fishless mornings and evenings, but when you finally connect, those fishless days are forgotten.

Remember, if you build your "Redfin" rod with an alternate blank, the guide spacing we have provided will not work. The guide spacing works only for the Fisher X4986. If you have any questions concerning rod building, drop us a line in care of The Fisherman Magazine.

Alternate Blanks:
Loomis GLB 702—Graphite
Loomis GLB 764—Graphite
Dynaflex G384—Graphite/Glass Composite
Fisher 5400—Fiberglass

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IN THE SHADOW OF FLOYD BENNETT FIELD

by Salvatore Agliano

Boatmen who hail from such ports as Mill Basin, Bergen Beach and Canarsie are just a short cast away from some fine inshore action.

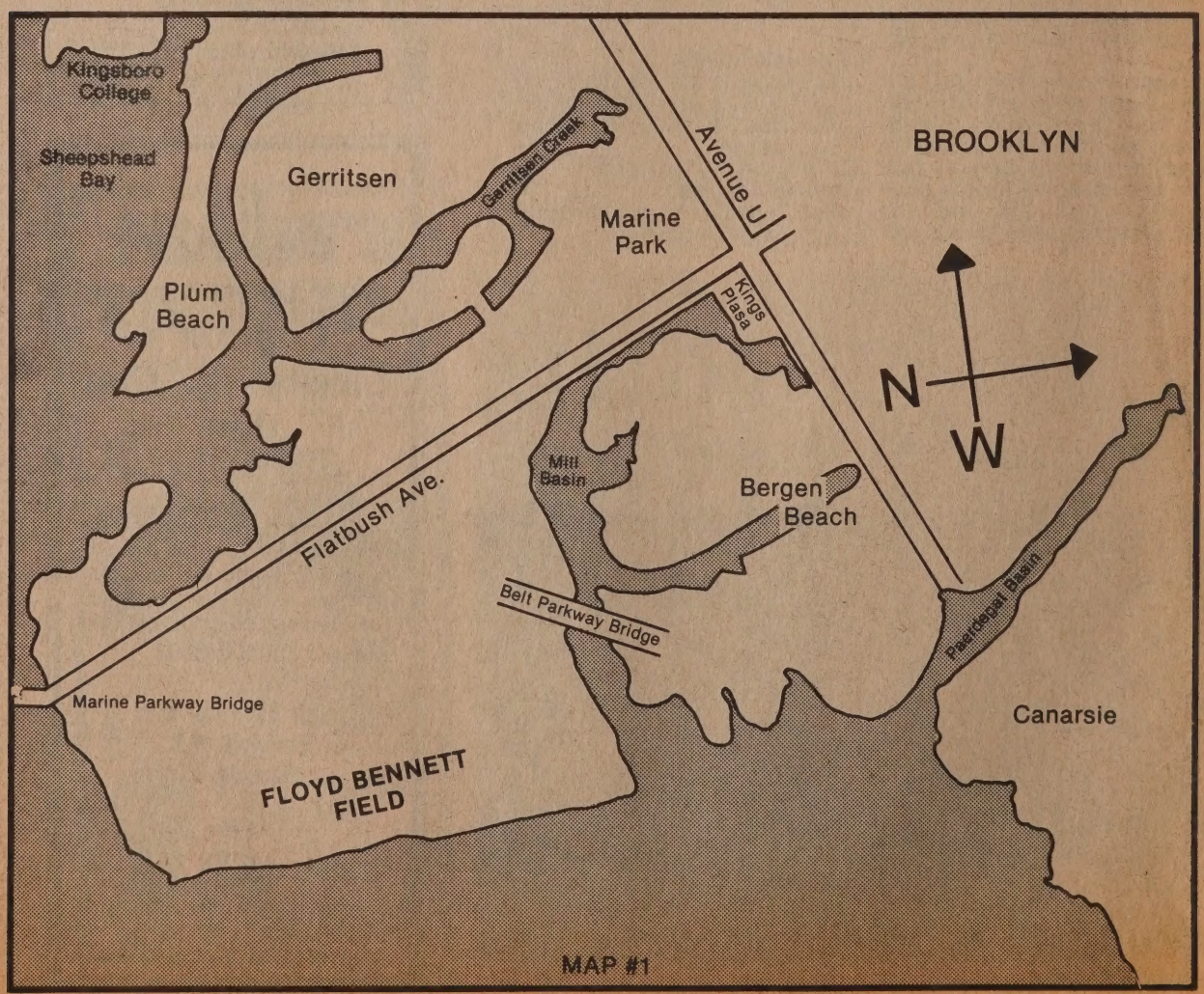
Wouldn't it be great to be over fish only minutes after shoving off—not just once or twice by chance, but all year-round? So close is the fishing that before you're rigged or the bait is cut, someone on the boat is shouting: "We're here!"

For those of us fortunate enough to disembark from Mill Basin and the surrounding areas shown in map #1, Floyd Bennett Field is such a spot. Flanked by the Marine Parkway Bridge on the west and Mill Basin Creek to the north, this two-mile stretch of coastal water is blessed with fish for most of the year.

The first signs of life appear about the last week in February when flounder begin to move in. They settle into the shallows close to shore, with the best action found between the broken concrete pier and just beyond the sea plane ramp as shown in map #2.

But don't expect these first-of-the-season flatties to be doing any leap jobs into the boat. They're just beginning to awaken from a winter-long period of hibernation and if you want to put fish in the bucket, you've got to work at it. Bounce your rig off the bottom! Shake up the chum! Anything that will spur the fish into feeding.

Most of the fish at this time of year respond by gently sucking in the bait, after which they remain motionless on bottom, quite often undetected. Lifting the rod's tip will reveal any flounder's presence. However, heavy-handed sinker bouncing at this time may be too fast-paced for the sluggish



MAP #1

flatfish. Those rapid, high lifts could result in yanking the bait out of the fish's mouth and because of its lethargic state, the flounder is less inclined to charge such a fast-moving meal. I find it best to slowly raise the rod's tip an inch or so. If extra weight is felt, drop back! Then repeat the procedure. Usually by lifting lightly, the fish, finding the bait about to escape yet within reach, will strike back.

Frankly, these early season trips produce very few fish. Tackle shops are just beginning to set up shop, so the availability of bait is usually restricted to frozen skimmer clam. But by mid-March as the water temperatures rise, flounder become more active and the catches improve measurably. Tackle shops, by this time, are in full swing and a variety of bait is available.

Flounder along this stretch of Floyd Bennett respond to the usual baits. Among them mussels, skimmer clams and worms. Choosing between sand worms and blood worms is a matter of personal preference and prevailing conditions, as flounder in this area have been known to take either. To be on the safe side, it is best to be equipped with more than one type of bait. There have been times when flounder hit nothing but worms, while clam baits remained untouched. At other times, the reverse was true.

Aside from providing the proper bait, an absolute must when flounder fishing is chum. Bank mussels, skimmer clam, cat food or ground bunker all work well in attracting flounder to the boat. However, the position of the chum pot is most critical. It should always be placed up-current of where the fishing is done and particular attention should be given to which way the line on the chum pot is running. If it runs away from the boat, it will do you no good for the action will lie beyond the pot and out of reach. The pot should be re-positioned to where the line runs under the boat and the fishing done on the opposite side.

If the chum line runs alongside the boat and toward the stern, the favorable spot would be in the back of the boat. Under these conditions, it would be best to re-position the pot in the bow and fish from midship to the stern on the side the pot favors.

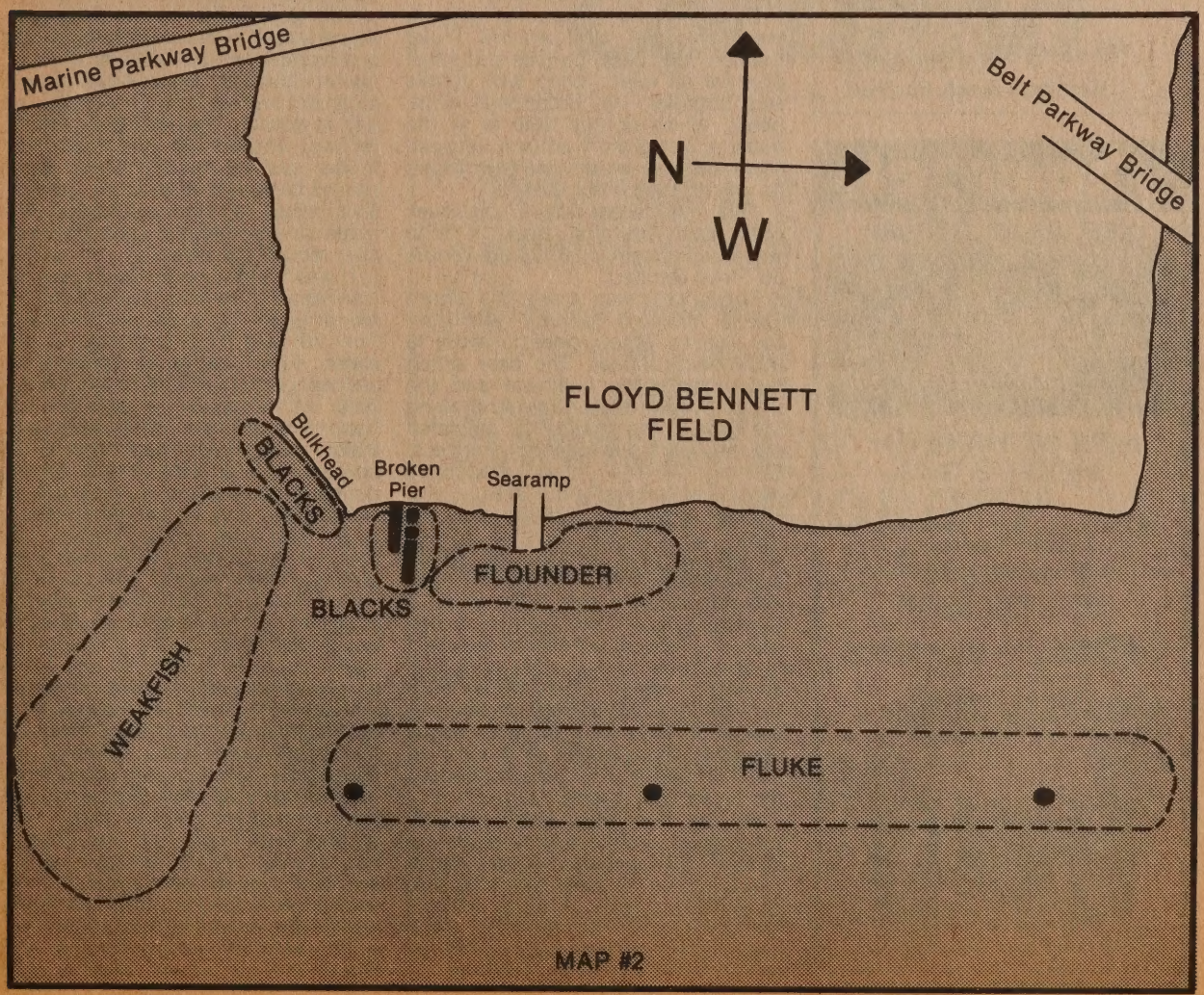
On rare occasions and for some unknown reason, flounder seem to congregate in one spot while the rest of the area is virtually uninhabited. In this situation, the chances of dropping anchor over the main body of fish on the first shot are most unlikely. However, if you are lucky enough to do so, I doff my cap to you, for you will be engaged in effortless fishing for the better part of the day.

Unfortunately, the hands of fate are seldom placed so favorably upon my shoulders. So after an hour or so of fruitless chumming and bottom stirring, there is only one thing to do: move! But random moving from one spot to another, dropping and hauling anchor all day will test the patience of even the most avid fisherman—myself included. When faced with this condition, it is best to drift very slowly from the concrete pier to about 50 yards past the sea plane ramp. Keep several baited rigs on bottom while moving. Make several passes, each time varying the distance from shore. If the fishing gods are smiling, somewhere along this stretch you will hit pay dirt! When this happens, note the location (preferably with a marker buoy) then maneuver the boat over the spot and set the anchor. Continued fishing should result in good flounder action.

By the beginning of May, flounder are joined in this hotspot around the bend by another species: blackfish!

Blacks gather along the bulkhead

(Continued on next page.)



MAP #2

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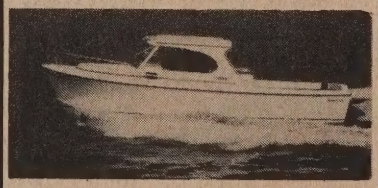

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and around the broken concrete pier. The marine growth supported by these structures offers a habitat in keeping with the blackfish's unusual diet.

Skimmer clam and sand worms are most commonly used to catch blackfish from this area, but when bait-stealing bergalls move in it is best to switch over to fiddler crabs. Contrary to popular belief, blacks do take crab offerings in the spring and when bergalls are in thick, crab bait seems to be the only thing that will ensure sizeable blackfish catches.

Rigging for blackfish can be best explained in one word: simple! The less hardware used, the less the chances of hanging up. I tie a short leadered #6 Virginia hook just above the sinker—no snaps, no swivels, no unnecessary adornments to foul on those debris-strewn bottoms conducive to blackfishing. You will more than likely have your share of lost rigs, so why add to them by cluttering your tackle with useless hardware?

Chumming for blackfish is not a common practice; yet my observations lead me to believe it does work. I noticed that whenever a chum pot enriched with cracked mussels, crushed calico, or rock crabs was lowered over the side, my blackfish catches improved measurably.

By mid-May other species begin to move into the area around Floyd Bennett. Sea bass, porgies and small ling are all taken along with blacks and flounder. An occasional white perch, which at this time is in the midst of a migratory pattern between fresh and salt water, has also found its way to the baited hook.

This fast-paced action continues until about the first week in June when fluke begin invading the waters off Floyd Bennett.

Fluke are taken along the entire stretch of Floyd Bennett Field from the shallow waters close to shore to about mid-channel. The best action lies between the bulkhead and the mouth of Mill Basin Creek and along the edge of the channel as indicated by the red buoy channel markers. Drifting is the most productive method of fluking in this area.

Fluke prefer their meals "on the hoof," so to speak. That is to say, something that is alive or which appears to be alive. Packaged frozen spearing or sand eels seem to be a favorite among fluke fishermen who work the waters off Floyd Bennett. Hooked once through the eyes and allowed to dangle freely, these baitfish possess that lifelike appearance needed to whet the fluke's ravenous appetite. The addition of a six inch piece of tapered squid strip enhances the rig to its ultimate.

As for live bait, nothing beats the killies, which swarm endlessly through the shallows of Mill Basin Creek. Easily captured in a killy trap baited with a piece of bread (even a half-eaten donut will suffice), these hearty fish are best kept alive in an overboard bait car.

For the first few weeks of fluke season, the short to keeper ratio is about 50-50. (Remember: fluke caught or taken into New York waters must be fourteen inches to be legal.) Although the average size keeper taken at any time from these waters is 2½ pounds, fish up to six pounds are not unusual. And recently Captain Paul Luisi of the charter boat Sailfin boated a nine pounder as his boat drifted within feet of the concrete pier.

As the summer progresses, fewer and fewer shorts are taken and by the end of August, they are practically non-existent. But it is also at this time that fishing gets pretty hectic. First of all, sand porgies appear in great numbers amongst the summer flatties. Competition for the available food is vigorous! Action is hot! Getting past the porgies and onto the fluke is almost impossible. Softer baits are now replaced with the more durable choices: fluke belly, sea robin strips, dogfish strips, even whole squid heads. All are used in hopes that they can remain on the hook long enough for fluke to seize it.

To add to the hectic conditions, medium-size bluefish begin to prowl along the shores of Floyd Bennett. Chomping into the unsuspecting schools of porgies, these mighty creatures make their presence known, as evidenced by flocks of birds diving and feasting on the remains.

A flip of a coin, an educated guess, or preference in fishing decides the day's fishing. As a result, some fellows remain with the fluke and others pursue blues, while some remain content to load up on porgies. This brings to mind a fishing trip I made several years ago to that hotspot around the bend.

I was fluking with Captain Paul Luisi aboard his boat, the Sailfin. All morning we did a job on the fluke. The drift was running parallel to the shore. After many passes we were suddenly beseiged with porgies. Each time we dropped our rigs to the bottom they were stripped clean. Before long, our bait supply of spearing and squid bait was almost gone. Periodically, the porgy action would cease only to resume moments later with the same vigor. We couldn't understand what was happening. Then my rig was attacked with a savagery that could only be executed by bluefish. Sure enough upon recovering my rig, I found the leader cut in half. Without any available bluefish bait, Paul and I rerigged with #6 Beak hooks and began to fill up on small porgies. When a sufficient supply was aboard, we rerigged once again—this time for bluefish.

Wire-leadered 6/0 Sproat hooks were tied directly to our lines. Live porgies were rigged and line was fed into the drift. Upon checking our rigs, we found the baited porgies torn to pieces, yet we had no indication that a strike was made. Changing tactics, we removed the whole porgies and rigged with cut chunks. Shortly after

there was no question about the strikes; small blues were taking the bait. Non-stop fishing prevailed for hours and at day's end, Paul and I had boated several dozen one and two pound blues.

By mid-September, fluke move in close to shore for the big feed before departing to their winter lodgings along the Continental Shelf. At this time, fluke action is at its peak. The fish are larger, more aggressive and in abundance. But the action is brief! Before the week is out, the last of the malingering fluke are gone.

Almost as if changing guard, weakfish appear in place of fluke. Action lies parallel to and east of the Marine Parkway Bridge. Distance from the bridge is measured by the bulkhead and running from mid-channel to the bulkhead. Drifting with whole, large sand worms on 3/0 Beak hooks tied into three foot leaders four feet above the sinkers provides the best action. Weaks in this area seem to hit most frequently during the short period at the onset of the incoming tide. As the tide begins to move more swiftly, the action continues but not at the fast pace it does during the first stages of the tide.

Nevertheless, this area, only 15 minutes away from our original point of departure, has gifted us with weakfish in addition to blues, fluke, blackfish and flounder. And those deep-water fishermen returning from the Tin Can and points farther south in pursuit of big game are truly amazed by the catches we have scored in this near-to-port location.

By mid-October, the fall run of flounder and blackfish is in full swing. Fish are taken along the same areas as they were in the spring. Weather permitting, this action continues until the first week in December. Then it is only a short time before the first of the season's flatties re-appear again in February.

I remember well a time when fishing with Captain Paul Luisi and two buddies, John the Greek and "Old Man" Eddie. A fellow boatman, returning from an unsuccessful weakfishing jaunt at the Tin Can, neared the Sailfin as we were drifting across the channel.

"Hey fellows!" he shouted. "How is the fishing?"

"Not bad!" the skipper replied. "How's it outside?"

"Sloppy! Real sloppy! Ten foot swells at The Can. No fish around either."

With that, Paul lifted two weaks over his head to display them to the surprised fisherman. I proceeded to lift two others. And then adding insult to injury, both John and Old Eddie did likewise. "And there are more in the fish box!" our gloating skipper boasted.

The very next day we found this same boatman drifting in that very same spot. And so another convert was welcomed into the fold of anglers who fish "in the shadow of Floyd Bennett Field."

For the record:

Name: Marsha Bierman
Catch: Blue Marlin #100, taken during the Walkers Cay Billfish Tournament in 1981, Bahama Islands.
Line: Micron 80 lb. line
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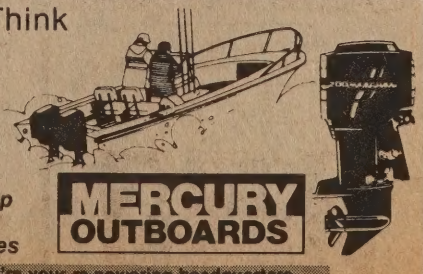

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PRIMED FOR COD

by Capt. John DeMaio

Montauk anglers, caught off guard by last year's strong, early showing of cod, are gearing up for a repeat of the action.

In those great and once taken for granted years of codfishing, all of Long Island had its fair share of fish. Cod were found as far west and south as New Jersey, the southern most boundary for this species. Of course, the best overall action for the New York area was the fall. Election Day and Thanksgiving were synonymous with cod. Only at Long Island's eastern tip was to be found any spring action for cod. It seemed as though all the fish that foraged to the west in the fall would pass through Montauk in the spring on their way to summer grounds to the east.

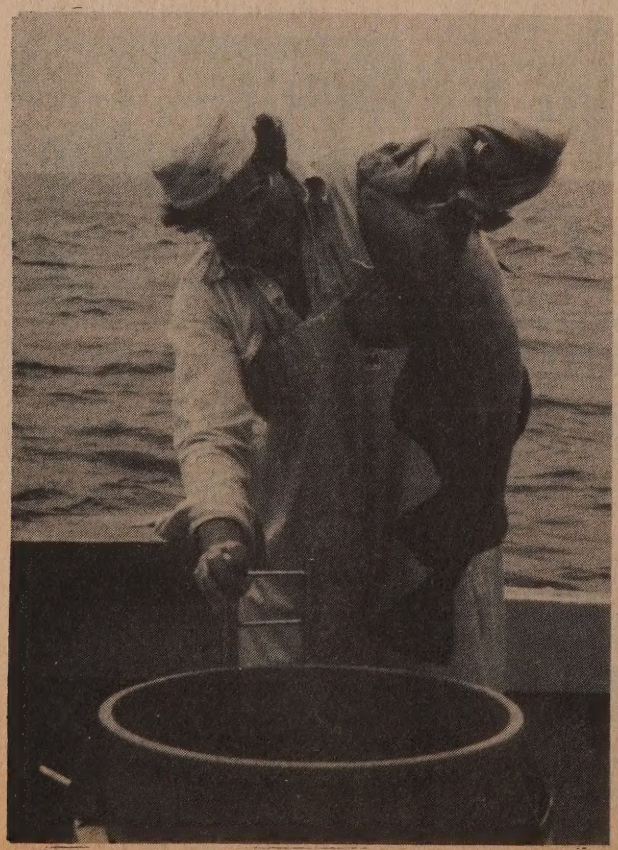
It is happening again. No need to refer to this migrating pattern in the past tense. The western half of Long Island experienced the best codfishing seen there in over 20 years. Scores in the hundreds were common among the head boats. From Sheepshead Bay to Captree Boat Basin, codfish obliged hearty winter anglers. The year 1982 was reported as great; in 1983, it was sensational. It is safe to say that the cod are back!

At Montauk (my home port) spring codfishing never did stop. Even when western Long Island had a depressed fishery, Montauk had its spring run. This could be attributed to the geographical location of eastern Long Island. It is far enough east to be considered New England. A good deal of our fishing is done in the Block Island area which belongs to the State of Rhode Island. You can see how we figure into the scheme of things. The bottom line may be water temperature, as Montauk waters are colder than the rest of Long Island.

The winter of 1982-83 was a mild one for the East Coast. While the interior of the continent caught hell, we here on the Coast enjoyed above normal temperatures. As an example of how warm it was, I actually was able to do some oil base painting on the boat in February. Admittedly, the side that did not receive any sunlight went flat, but I could say I got away with it. The thermometer was reading in the mid-50s.

With a little more of this slap-dash paint work and some neglect, I launched the "Vivienne" the first week of March. At least a month ahead of the usual launch date.

My first day's reconnaissance found plenty of willing cod. They ate everything we offered. Both clam baits and lures worked equally well. The first pass over my chosen area showed nothing on the paper recorder. We tried a drift with skimmer clam bait. A nice green cod of about eight pounds was quick to take a bait



While most spring run cod average quite a bit smaller than the one shown here, an occasional large fish will spice the action.

The potential for decking a truly large fish is always there. This 55 pounder was taken aboard the author's boat in '83.

(Montauk's inshore spring codfishing is noted for its school size cod). Over went the buoy for pinpointing the location and then we anchored up to our buoy. Soon the cod were coming steady. Fish of seven to eight pounds took the clam baits readily. The action was furious, but over quickly. We pulled the anchor and searched out the area around the buoy. My recorder picked up a school of cod stacked up on the bottom and into schools of sand eels. A quick switch to diamond jigs and tubes and once again the rods were bending. After two or three short drifts, the fish once again slipped out from underneath the boat in the 90 foot depths and we gave up the pursuit. We had accomplished what I wanted most—to find out if the cod were there.

And so began a spring run of cod that was reminiscent of old times. Even though it was an early spring shot (May fishing was a big disappointment), the cod were there in force for the lucky anglers who got in on the action.

A normal pattern for Montauk fishermen is to fish the areas immediate to Montauk in early spring and then move east into the Block Island area at the end of April and early May. The majority of anglers never begin early enough to fish locally, so just head east and for good reason, too. In the lean years nothing much took place locally. All the action occurred in the east; 1983 was a direct contradiction. Even though poor weather knocked out 40 percent of March and April fishing, that was the time to be wetting a line. Later, in the Block Island vicinity, May, which was a hot month in the spring of 1982, was a flop. This does not suggest a current trend. I'm sure this season will see a return to the norm. Only with more cod early, and locally.

I began fishing the Cartwright area. Trip after trip, with the weather permitting, the exceptional fishing remained constant. Not only Cartwright, but areas where I haven't caught cod for over 20 years yielded heavy scores. Places known as Rocky Hill and Frisbees gave up solid catches to the increasing number of boats as the season progressed. A couple of local hand-liners with a knowledge and understanding of these areas through years of experience made a living here. On a daily basis, as weather permitted.

When codfishing was good at Montauk, nearby inshore grounds such as Great Eastern and the Elbow, which is almost under the shadow of the lighthouse, surrendered excellent catches of school size cod. Even though the strong inshore tide made the fishing one of correct timing, a big catch of cod during the slack water period was not a difficult task for a couple of anglers. Not only in the spring of the year, but also in the fall. This spring I tried a piece of hard, high bottom slightly east of Great Eastern and found codfish. A couple of dozen schoolies topped off with a 20 pounder. In the fall of 1983 I tried again and found a dozen more which averaged out at 15 pounds. Could a return of cod to the inshore areas be in the making? It is comical to think of the entire Montauk fleet passing over the fish on the way east and south to the respective "hotspots."

Last time the cod were here in high numbers, the Loran radio receiver system was in its infancy. We found our bottom by the use of ranges. The closer to the beach, the better the range. So it came as a natural order to fish inshore. Most captains knew the offshore spots would yield more, but finding them was a tricky business. Trying to line up two telephone poles on the shore line from six miles out in the ocean was not easy—even on days with good visibility.

Many offshore spots were reached by time and course navigation. Names of locations suggest their origin. Such as "20 minutes east." At the midway buoy the Bendix timer was set for 20 minutes and the compass course was due east. When the bell went off, you had arrived. Maybe!

Loran has changed all that. Now we can pinpoint our location with a precision that's frightening. No more guesswork. At times I feel like the mail man "...neither rain, sleet, or snow can stop these fishermen from their appointed rounds." Combine some old-time fishing with today's electrical wizardry and the catch ratio can be awesome.

No boat captain would consider leaving the dock on a cod trip without enough skimmer clam bait. Lures are effective, but only when the opportunity presents itself. Skimmer clams are abundant on Long Island's south shore and make the best bait available for a reasonable price. Fish baits such as herring and mackerel offer a poor return compared to the large clams. Remove the meat from the shell and cut into pieces. When cutting the tongue, make sure the angle of cut offers some belly part as well as the meat. Even though the belly is the softest part of the clam, to the fish it is the most desirable.

Most rigging in Montauk consists of the hi-lo rig. The first hook is placed approximately six inches above the sinker. High up the line or leader goes the second hook. It should be high enough not to interfere with the bottom hook. About 2½ to 3 feet is right. At times, cod will prefer a hook six feet up the line. As a rule of thumb, if they are not chasing sand eels or other bait, the cod will be hard to the bottom on the prowl for such tasty items as crabs, and your clam offering.

When cod are found chasing bait, the bait is sand eels. Unlike other baits, sand eels will swim close to the bottom, often burrowing into the sand. Our best imitation for the sand eel is the tube. A tube of average size is recommended. As a rule of thumb, use the manufactured Sekora tube #40 as a gauge. If you make up your own tubes as many fishermen do, this is the one to copy. Place the tube by way of a dropper loop about three feet above the jig. The diamond jig itself will help attract fish by its flash, but is not a good deceiver when the bait is sand eels. Place a tube on the jig for better results.

Do not jig the rig up and down off the bottom. After hitting the bottom, very slowly retrieve the rig for about five turns of the handle and repeat again. This will permit the tubes to spin slowly and attract your prey. On a bouncy day the mere motion of the boat is ample action to catch fish. To prove this drop the rig to the bottom, lock the drag and place the rod in a holder, letting the rig rise up and down off the bottom on its own. If you're fishing in a tide, this will not work as the line **must** be kept vertical.

Codfishing was a hot item on Long Island and is once again regaining that status. The popularity of this species will bring out anglers in the worst of weather. Even in early spring, when there's still a bit of winter left in Montauk. After a long winter of indoor activities, a day outdoors is often just what the doctor ordered for relief of cabin fever.

For east end headboats, it's a financial shot in the arm because the early action is before most private boats are in the water. Also, where else can a headboat angler have the opportunity to catch a big fish? The possibility of catching a big fish is always there. My biggest last spring was 60 pounds; this fall it was 55 pounds.

Cod are frequently tabbed as non-fighters and this is simply not true! They pull hard, especially when taken in shallow water. A reel of 3/0 size is a perfect match for this meat and potato fishery. A big cod is reluctant to leave the bottom after being hooked. About all you can do is hang on until the fish weakens.

Perhaps the cod's most wonderful attribute is its eating qualities. Baked, broiled, fried, poached and chowdered, the white meat of the cod goes perfectly with any recipe. The flesh also retains itself well in the freezer and has a long shelf life.

My introduction to Montauk was in the mid-50s. In those years the equation of Montauk and spring equaled fish. There were literally not enough boats to handle the anglers on the weekend. Bus loads of anglers would be forced to return to New York because they were unable to acquire space on a boat. Besides cod, large flounder termed "snowshoes" and pollock added spice to a day's fishing and variety in the freezer. Mostly, though, they all came for cod.

Maybe I'm blowing the horn a bit prematurely. One solid spring and an early spring at that, and an anticipated good spring for 1984 does not the good old days make—but the promise is there. Thank the 200-mile limit or whomever you want, but codfish are on the increase. And I, for one, will be there to greet those spring run cod.

SINKER BOUNCING —SECRETS—

by Matt Ahern

The attention you pay to terminal tackle governs your success as a sinker bouncer.

Every successful sinker bouncer knows the bottom fisherman's secret. It lies in the correct use of his terminal tackle; it lies in his correct use of hardware and hooks—and most of all, it lies in his attitude toward these components.

Are you one of those fishermen to whom a hook is just a hook, a sinker just a sinker, and a swivel just a swivel? If so, my advice to you is: cease your foolishness immediately! There isn't an experienced sinker bouncer I know who will fail to tell you that next to actually putting fish in the bucket, a fisherman's prime interest should be in his terminal tackle. Without such interest, he will catch few fish. It's as simple as that.

Now all this seems simple enough; but there's a hitch. It lies in the fact that with all the various hooks, gadgets, sinkers, and so forth on the market today (some put out by charlatans to catch fishermen instead of fish), it is often difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff. For many it seems to be a case of not being able to see the forest because of the trees.

It would be Jim-dandy if one rig would suffice for all fish. How simple, then, the fisherman's task. But for some anglers the sport would not be as exciting, for every veteran sinker bounder I know is an experimenter of sorts. I can personally vouch for this, for not only have I seen some weird contraptions dreamed up by brother fishermen, but over the years I've contributed my share of beauties.

I suppose, too, that every fisherman's main interest is centered on fishhooks. There is something about that thin, curved bit of tempered steel that causes dyed-in-the-wool fishermen to forget their immediate surroundings merely at the sight of one.

Hook manufacturers and fishing tackle mail order houses know this, of course, and they fill their catalogs with page after page of hook patterns—enough to make a fisherman's head swim. This is not a condemnation by any means, for every one of these hooks will do the job for which they've been designed. It is therefore up to each fisherman to know which hook is suitable for him and take it from there.

Fortunately for the sinker bouncer there are only four types of hook designs in their various sizes needed to do a job on our local fish population. These are the Sproat, Carlisle, Chestertown, and Virginia. Some fishermen would include Claw and Beak type hooks in this list but I never use them. Nor do I use baitholder hooks of any type. There's nothing wrong with any of these hooks, of course. It's me; being brought up in the old school, I stick with what I know. Being an "old-timer," I detest change for change's sake.

Except for American manufactured Eagle Claw and Pflueger hooks, most fishhooks are foreign-made.

All of the overseas companies make hooks in the four designs named, but I believe that for strength and temper, none comes near those produced by O. Mustad & Son of Oslo, Norway. Like their American counterparts, Mustad makes no shoddy hooks. This company supplies the world's gigantic commercial fishery. And for this fishery alone, Mustad makes and sells millions of hooks each year from over 50,000 separate designs. (And here you were thinking fishhooks were low man on the world's totem pole! How could you?)

Okay, now we're squared away on that.

Not only would it be Jim-dandy if one rig sufficed for all fish, it would be grand if one hook and one size were all one needed. Alas, such is not the case, and, as Shakespeare said, there lies the rub. It is here where many errors occur, errors which cost fishermen untold numbers of fish each year.

The beginner especially should keep in mind that there is a fishhook designed for each kind of fish he seeks. The properly selected hook will always assure better hooking, provided, of course, the correct size is used. (If at any time you are uncertain as to size, always select the smaller of the lot.) Correct size is the key. I've seen cod caught on large Chestertown hooks when snowshoe flounder fishing, but never have I seen flounder caught on a codfish hook. That poor flattie may be willing to give it a try, but how can he get that oversized hook into such a small mouth?

Many factors enter into proper hook selection. Does your fish of interest suck in bait like a flounder? Does it get the hook deep in its innards like an eel? Does it peck rapidly at the bait like a porgy? Is it possessed of a large mouth and much weight like a cod? Is it wary like a blackfish, making a short-biting hook necessary? All these considerations, and more, must be known by the fisherman when selecting the proper hook.

No one hook is exactly perfect for fish; the best we can do is come close in our selection. For instance: is the barometer high or low? This affects how fish will approach bait on any given day. Is the current fast-moving or just drawling along? Are you fishing in shallow or deep water? And how clear is that water? Is the day cloudy, or one filled with sunshine? This can be of extreme importance when codfishing, for cod often bite best on cloudy days. (Don't ask me why; I don't know.) And on those cloudy days it is the fisherman who uses a 5/0 Beak or Eagle Claw hook who seems more successful. (Maybe I better use Beaks and Eagle Claws at that.)

As you can see, it's enough to make a guy take up golf or tennis—or some other sane sport. All one can hope for is to use a hook that will do the job best under prevailing conditions.

Let's take a look at two specialized hooks—the Chestertown and the Virginia.

The Chestertown is the flounder fisherman's hook and was designed originally for these fish. They can be found in sizes from two to ten, with hook size becoming smaller as the numbers increase. For all-around flounder fishing in bays and sheltered waters, it is perhaps best to use a nine or ten. Number nine gets the nod, although there isn't much overall difference in size; the larger numbered hook is made of thicker steel. For Montauk's snowshoe flounder in May, size two to four do fine, with the edge favoring number four. The long shank of these hooks makes removal easier.

The Virginia hook has been especially developed for the blackfisherman. There's no doubt in my mind that somebody, somewhere, put in a lot of time and experimentation before coming up with this hook. I doff my fishing cap to this unknown fisherman, because he certainly came

up with the perfect blackfish hook.

I've caught blackfish on Sproats, Chestertowns, and you name it, but I've never caught as many large blacks as I have on these hooks. The Virginia's hollow-point and offset barb makes the blackfisherman's job a lot easier. And believe me, any aid to put the tricky black into the bucket is welcome, indeed.

For average bay blackfish Virginia hooks size six are best. When fishing specialized areas in bays known to harbor big fish, size five will do the trick. When fishing offshore grounds and when you've been told big fish can be expected, I wouldn't hesitate to use a number two or four.

The Carlisle hook with its long shank is best used for fluke, or any fish known to have sharp teeth, such as whiting. The sizes used for fluke run from 1/0 to 5/0. I would strike a happy medium by selecting a 3/0 for all-around fishing.

The Sproat has been the "fisherman's hook" for generations. This is the one we mentally picture when someone mentions fishhooks. I doubt if there is a species of fish which accepts the baited hook while swimming the world's oceans and inland waters that hasn't been caught on this hook. I rely on this hook for just about all my bottom fishing—except, of course, blackfish.

From the small number six, which I use for flounder instead of the more common Chestertown, to the large 8/0 for cod, Sproat hooks account for more local fish than any other. It's the one to use in its proper size when the design for the fish you seek is unknown or not available. Sproats are an excellent porgy, sea bass, ling, whiting, cod and pollock hook.

Some fishermen connect their snelled hooks and leaders directly to the main line with a simple double-overhand knotted loop at the prescribed distance from the sinker. Other fishermen use a variety of devices to accomplish this end, thereby doing away with the knotted loop, which they feel may cut into the line under the stress of an outsized fish.

These devices range from the free-swinging hook holder "H" swivels and "L" shaped codfish swiveling rigs, to three-way swivels and "Quick Rigs." The selection is confusing, but there is no problem when fishermen remember the cardinal rule pertaining to all bottom fishing: the less hardware, the better.

There are only two gadgets on this list I consider worthwhile. They are the three-way swivel and the "Quick Rig." All others are shunned by me, for in my estimation they cost fish. We won't even consider those abominations known as flounder spreaders. They foul too easily on the slightest obstruction and gather copious amounts of weed.

Three-way swivels of the proper size for the fish you seek should be attached to the main line by the use of an Improved Clinch Knot. If you don't know how to tie this knot, learn how as soon as possible. Actually, as far as I'm concerned, this is the only knot bottom fishermen need know when making up their terminal tackle.

Any blackfish sharpie will agree that the unique design of a Virginia style hook makes it the only choice for tautogs.

"Quick Rigs" are purchased in tackle shops and cost pennies. If you are unsure of how they go on your line, ask the man behind the counter to show you. With them, you can place your rig anywhere on the main line without making knots. "Quick Rigs" are extremely strong for their size. Several years ago I caught a 47 pound cod while using one. It never gave a bit of trouble, though I'll admit it came up a little tired.

Barrel swivels have many uses: as a stop when using a fish-finder rig, or as a connector between a pre-made rig and the main line when fishing a strong tidal current, or when mackerel or codfishing. When mackerel fishing, be advised to use a barrel swivel of dull color, or paint it black. Mackerel love to strike shiny barrel swivels, which may be fine for them, even if they do bend a tooth or two, but not for you. You can also use snap swivels in their place, but these are used mainly to facilitate lure changing.

Sinker snaps come in handy, too. These are the ones with the oversized loop at one end. When using these for flounder or fluke fishing, you can slip your rig in the loop along with the sinker. Be aware, though, that when flounder fishing early or late in the season, it is best to tie your hooks directly to the main line for more sensitive command.

You'll see connecting links used on occasion, but they aren't necessary for bottom fishermen who use three-way, barrel, or snaps.

Sinkers should be of the bank style because these are likely to foul least when fishing obstructed areas such as wrecks and rock piles. Carry a supply of various weights to compensate for changing tidal conditions—and loss; especially if you plan a blackfishing trip.

Of all these gadgets mentioned, remember they are nothing but aids to get that all-important fishhook in that fish's mouth. All else is mere child's play.

One final thing. If you want a look-see at most of these hooks described (all except Sproat), send a stamped, self-addressed #10 envelope (approximately 9½ x 4¼) to my home at 39 King Street, Hampton Bays, NY 11946. I'll send you a copy of Mustad's "Guide To The Selection of Salt Water Bait Hooks." I offer these from time to time and it is sometimes hard to keep up with the demand, but I have a fresh supply waiting to go.

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East End REPORT with Stu Miller

Cod continue to be caught at the Island's easterly point though numbers have not been super outstanding on the head boats. However, sizes continue to be very interesting. A

MONTAUK

A possible 50 lb. class world record was set Saturday by Montauk angler Fred Shay, Jr., a mate on the **Marlin V.** Fred layed back and set the hook into a cod which took 25 minutes to land. The fish was an 85 lb. cod, the second heaviest cod ever to apply for any IGFA record, the heaviest being a 98 lb. 12 oz. brute. Again, this fish was taken on 50 lb. test line. The fish was caught at the CIA Grounds, and no doubt we will be hearing further on the results of the IGFA filing. Montauk sure does grow them big.

A call from Capt. Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Fleet** advised that while checking out Georges Bank this past week with five crew aboard in preparation for the upcoming scheduled Georges Bank trips, they had several cod in the 60 lb. class, seven halibut in the 35 to 60 lb. range and a lot of big haddock, a boding of heavy catches to come.

John Malausky of Newark, N.J. decked this 52 lb. cod during a recent trip aboard the "Viking Starship." The fish currently leads the way in the Viking Cod Derby.

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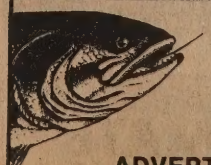
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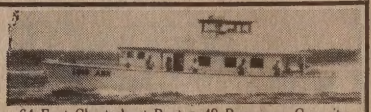

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From Captain Mike Potts of the charter boats **Blue Fin I and IV** we heard of last Sunday's busman's holiday with Mike and his mate catching in two hours, 85 cod at Cartwright, all on bait. These fish ran 4 to 15 lbs.

South Shore REPORT
with Fred Colofaro

Despite the early date, flounder are rapidly becoming established on the local fishing front. Anglers working the deep trench connecting Shinnecock and Moriches Bays, alias Quogue Canal, have had far and away the best flatfish action.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

Larry Dallaire of **L&M Marine Fishi Station** in **East Moriches** called the flounder fishing this past week excellent, with ten of his rental boats on Saturday returning with catches ranging between 50 and 120 flounder. All of the activity has been in the Quogue Canal with buoy 54 the most recent hotspot. Fish average ⅓14 of a pound to a pound, with a few fish to 2 lbs. mixed in. Among Saturday's better scores were Young Yoo, Myung Soo Kim, and Lino Galela, who put away 120 flatties to 2 lbs. The trio used lots of mussel chum and blood worms for bait. Sunday was lost to the wind, but Larry expects the fishing in the canal to hold for at least another two to three weeks before the fish move out into the open bay. Larry also reminded that he is well-stocked with bait and he has plenty of boats ready to go.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From **J&J Tackle Shop** in **Patchogue** Paul Graniello told of looking over a dozen nice flatties taken in the Quogue Canal in the vicinity of the second bridge by Tim Brownie and George Ruland on Saturday. They used mussel bait and chum and returned a number of smaller fish. Closer to home, Paul noted that local clammers reported taking some flounder as early as two weeks ago. Paul feels the fish are available but a few anglers have made the attempt due to

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the calendar. Paul did weigh in a white perch of 1.4 pounds on Saturday. It was taken out of the Carman's River by Tom Healy.

According to Al Coleman of **J&R Sports Center** in **Oakdale**, the flounder are well spread throughout the bay if catches being made by clammers are any indication. Al has heard reports of several catches ranging between 30 and 50 flounder up to 2 lbs. made by local clam diggers working on the Heckscher flats, Bay Shore flats and in the vicinity of Dickerson Channel.

On the freshwater side of the ledger, Bubbles Falls has been producing quite a few trout of late but nearly all have been small fish. On the other hand, Connetquot State Park just across the road has been surrendering a good number of nice browns and rainbows. Al looked over a number of bows and browns in the 2 to 3 lb. range taken from the club late in the week and over the weekend.

Over at **Captree Boat Basin**, most of the fleet is gearing up for the start of flounder season. While traditionally, St. Paddy's day marked the flatfish opening, the first weekend in March has become increasingly popular as customers began realizing the potential of the early action available in the bay.

Captain Carl Passero of the **Jib Fleet** said that both the **VI** and **VII** will begin sailing this Saturday at 8AM and 7AM respectively. Both will be sailing daily full day trips with worms and tackle supplied free. The skipper added that he has heard of several good private boat catches this past week including one catch of 90 fish made during last week's mild spell.

Captain Rod Westerlund of the open boat **Capt. Rod** was equally enthused about the prospects of a good early run of flatties. The **Capt. Rod** will also join the fray on Saturday and will be sailing daily 8AM thereafter.

Codfish is still in the picture as demonstrated by the report from Captain George Tweedy of the open boat **Capt. Scotty 3.** While George described this past week's fishing as so-so, with catches ranging between 12 and 40 cod per trip, fares did manage to put away 70 cod on Thursday including 12 in the 25 to 30 lb. range. Pool fish was a 37 lber. George has been working primarily over wrecks and the average size fish on most days has been in the 15 to 20 lb. range. The skipper also noted that the special cod boat pool is now over $1,000.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop in Babylon** Fred Austin told of one customer who sampled the Heckscher Flats on Friday. He returned with six big but thin flounder up to 1¾ lbs. Another customer journeyed to Quogue during the week and returned with 46 flatties. Fred asked that we

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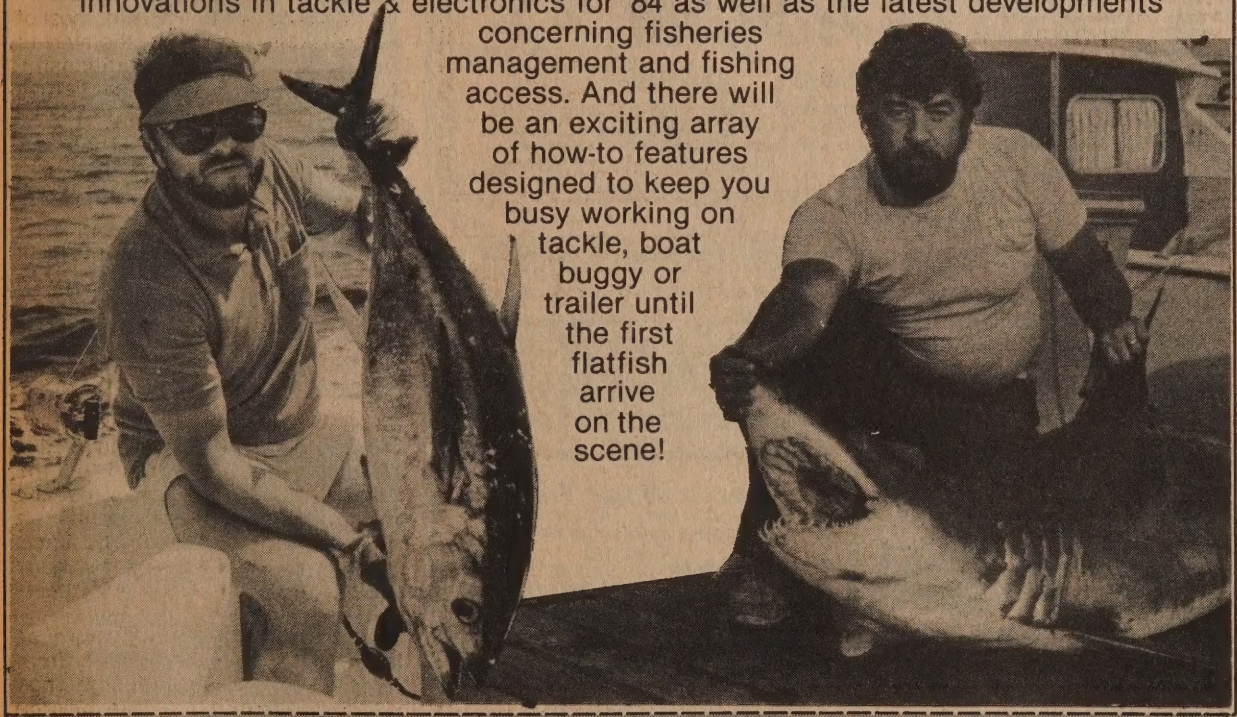

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remind customers that Augie's will have worms in stock for the weekend and also asked that we remind customers that the Babylon Captains Association has expanded with the addition of a new open boat (formerly the Viking Starlight—now the Miss Babylon) and several new charter boats including a couple of 31' Bertrams and a Post.

Ralph Angelillo of **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** reported a few flounder showing locally with some of the local youngsters reporting some flatties from the Tanner Park Shore in Copiague. Ralph knew that a couple of his customers have been working the tidal reaches of the Connetquot River and doing a nice job with white perch and some large trout. He, too, is now well supplied with worms for the flounder faithful.

West End REPORT

with Stu Miller

Some cod continue to be caught on the wrecks by boats making the trip and flounder appear to have started for the spring of '84. However, not many boats are in the water as yet and open boats as of this writing have yet to start pounding the flatties, due to the season just beginning to break.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From Jimmy at **Merrick Tackle** we hear of 60 good flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. taken by one customer fishing locally. Heavy chumming along with clam, worm and mussel bait did the trick on all moving water. Best spots were boats that fished the meadowbrook area and the 2nd Wantagh.

We also got word from Joe Doyle, one of the south shore's top-flight auto mechanics of a 74 lb. cod caught by Al Semica aboard his boat Big Foot last Sunday. The fish was weighed in at Mako Marina in Freeport.

The word from Capt. Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** this week was of rather picky codding Monday through Friday. He fished deeper water Saturday and fares totaled 24 cod and a mixed bag of blackfish, ling and a hake. A 27 lber was the largest cod of the week, with fish averaging 8 to 12 lbs. Wreck fishing was the name of the game. Richie noted that the setliners continued to do well, a fact indicative of there still being a good number of codfish around.

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Jack Hooke of Bayside displays a huge 55 lb. dolphin taken during a January vacation to St. Martin. Subscriber photo.

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★ 2 BIG, CLEAN, 65' BOATS ★
HOT SOUP! HOT SOUP!!
FLOUNDERS 7:30 AM • FULL DAY
FREE BAIT • SR. CIT. RATE WEEKDAYS

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FROM POOP DECK DOCK ON WOODCLEFT CANAL FREEPORT

TWO 1/2 DAY TRIPS DAILY
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8 AM - 12 PM - 1 PM - 5 PM
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ADVERTISE IN THE FISHERMAN
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From the **Capt. Al** comes word of Wednesday's catch of a 29 lb. pool winning cod by Westbury cod sharpie Roosevelt Rogers, followed by a 23 lb. cod hoisted by Otis Mallory of Brooklyn. Fish are averaging around 12 lbs. and it is mostly wreck fishing.

The **Capt. Bill** out of **Point Lookout** expects to be starting his 2 a day flounder trips around the middle of March. Watch for his ad.

NEW YORK BIGHT

The Wee Willie report emanating from **Mike's Tackle** in **Sheepshead Bay** tells of the **Pilot II** on Saturday with 15 fares decking roughly 150 flounder fishing the Navesink in Jersey. The boat also had a good showing of blackfish at the Mud Hole. The flounder were fair sized but provided good action as a season opener said Wee Willie.

EDITORIAL

(Continued from page 5.)

inshore fishermen seek bluefish first, and are delighted to catch a striped bass as a bonus.

Therefore, in order for the striped bass segment of the recreational industry to return to a vitality level equal to the 1960s and early 1970s, only future positive effects of management strategies loom as a solution. The only state-sponsored measure that might have a chance of helping the recreational industry in the short-term would be a massive striped bass hatchery and the cost of such a project is probably prohibitive at this time given all factors. Unlike the commercial industry, the recreational industry can only wait patiently for a better future. This is just one reason why knowledgeable and informed sectors of the recreational industry support management measures for striped bass.

In summary, we support the concept of exploring means of assisting commercial fishermen on Long Island to regain vitality. However, it must be understood that this is a problem that is too general to be attributed to striped bass legislation unilaterally. We support the commercial fishing industry on Long Island, yet we believe support actions must be independent of management legislation. Management plans and legislation are, and will be essential elements of our growing concern for wildlife, not only as it pertains to preservation of significant species, but also as it pertains to the opportunity management offers for the long-range preservation of many industries and diverse life styles.

William A. Muller

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1st Trip Sat, Mar 3 ★ Closest Boat to the Flounder Fishing Grounds

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2 TRIPS DAILY
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A quality boat with a courteous & efficient crew, dedicated to giving you the best possible fishing — whether you are a beginner or an expert.

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Fast, Fully Equipped Sportfisherman
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1974 23' SEA BIRD center console, '81, 235 Evinrude. Lo hrs. Dual batt. switch, live bait well, 75 gal. built-in fuel tank, VHF radio & depth recorder. $8000. 1976 200 hp Johnson; lo hrs. Excl. cond. $2000. 516-598-0044.

WANTED: Evinrude, Johnson, Mercury O/Bs. Any condition. Will pick up. Used parts available. 516-981-6487.

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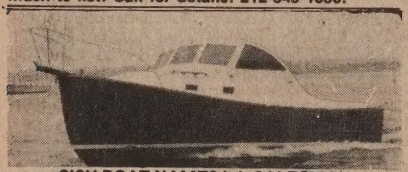

SISU BOAT NAMES L.I. SALESMAN
Ken Turco, Hampton Bays, sells all Sisu 22', 26' & 30' boats. Center console, Bass Boats, Lobster Boats. 516-728-5127 after 5PM; or SISU, 603-749-4452 Days.

1968 BERTRAM Flybridge sportfish. Radar fish equip.
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25' Bertram Hardtop twin I/O
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Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jacksons Marina. 728-4220. Tom or Chris.

BAJA 31' X 11" Full tower; 3 controls. Proven producer-giants, swords, marlin. 300 mile range at 17 knots. Cuddy w/galley & head. Sleeps 2; 6' 3" clearance. Full elec. & tuna chair. $27,500. Day: 203-226-8301. Night: 203-655-9502.

JOHNSON Powered Aluminum boats. Duranautic or Lund; 16' w/1980 Johnson 15 hp O/B. 12 months limited warranty on motors W/new Calkins trailer-$2000. Complete. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, Southold. 516-765-2445.

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1970 Enterprise "Hurricane Model" 22' center console I/O Fiberglass fishing machine. New Merc Outdrive, new intermediate housing, 75 gal. built-in gas tank, in-deck fishbox, new canvas, new SS prop. Needs engine. Days: 212-945-0350; Eves: 516-887-2004.

50' PARTY BOAT: Licensed for 44 passengers & 2 crew. Flush deck, cabin above; 6-71 diesel, electronics. Must sell - quick! First $12,000 Takes it! 212-848-9161.

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Engines, 4 cyl-130 hp, for Chris, OMC, Mercruiser. Can be used for I/O. Rebuilt Sprin '82. Lo hrs, excl. cond. $1400 w/trans; $1150 N/Trans. Ask for Jim. Eves: 516-957-9531. M-F: 516-599-3363.

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1979½ CENTURY Express 25', 228 Mercruiser I/O, compass, CB radio, trim tabs, swim plat., head encl. Stove alcohol, ice box, 2 sinks, canvas. Sleeps 4; lo hrs. $15,000. 212-829-8584.

1977 ROBALO, center console, 83 175 Evinrude. Recorder, VHF, Bimini top. Many extras. $11,000. John: 212-444-3923.

1982 45 hp. Chrysler O/B, elec. start, control arm. Immaculate. Used one season. $1200. Eves: 212-645-3314.

1982 SEA RAY 245 cuddy Fisherman Walkaround, 260 Merc. I/O, dual batt., swim platform, full seating, chart recorder, VHF, Lee outriggers. Very lo hrs. Like new. Asking $17,900. 516-795-2606.

63 18' O International Craft mahogany, 1981 80 hp Mercury. Used 2 seasons. Tach, teleflex steering. Navy top, cabin; plus many extras. Insurance surveyed. Good cond. $4000. 914-235-2708.

1975 GRADY WHITE 18' 1977 Evinrude 115 hp. Extras. $4000. Very clean. 212-272-1821. 6PM.

CHRYSLER slant six, 155 hp, Marine eng. Low hrs., excl. cond. $700. 914-783-2145.

1981 15' ANSWER Open Fishing Boat, center console, 35 hp elec. start. Bimini top, spray hood, flush rod holders, cushions, depth finder, Shoreline trailer. CG pkg., flood lights & extras. Excl. for bay or sound. New-$7795. Sell-$4500 Neg. 516-796-6348.

DIESEL F/G Boat 22' Volvo turbo charged, low hrs. on eng. Repowered 1980, 60 gal. fuel, trim tabs. Canvas top, cuddy cabin. Terrific fishing boat. $10,900. After 7:30, Alex, 914-666-6523.

72 SPORTCRAFT HT 25' 215 E I/O, cuddy cabin sleeps 3. Galley, pvt. head, CG pkg. Excl. cond. Must sacrifice; bought new boat. $7500. Leave message at 212-641-2837.

1982 MANNINO 24'x9' cuddy w/hard top. 1982 150 hp Mariner eng. Power trim; less than 200 hrs. Bilge pump, compass, Si-Tex graph recorder, 75 gals. fuel, dual batt., side curtains. All in excl. cond. Getting larger boat. $10,500. Jeff Hunter, 914-357-4379.

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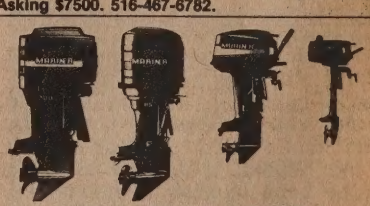
26' O MAC KENZIE Cuttyhunk 1975 220 hp Mercruiser. CB, recorder. Mint cond.; extras. Asking $7500. 516-467-6782.



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SEA OX, 1983 230C walkaround cuddy w/Merc V-6 O/B. Only 80 hrs. Loaded; warranty. Immaculate. Priced to move. 516-499-2288.

QUALITY GRADY WHITE BOATS:
1983 Grady White, 25' Trophy, Demo. Hard top/radio box; full hard-top canvas, H.T. rod holders, Porta-Potti, chain pipe, Binn control pkg, w/wiper, 4 flush r/h, outriggers & spreaders, anti-foul bottom, 2 batt. & batt. switch, fuel primer pump, tach, voltmeter, fuel & trim gauges, twin 1983 150 hp Johnson O/B, 223 gal. cap. Long range fishing machine-$36,795.
1982 Grady White Tournament, dual console; 22', 80 hrs. 170 hp OMC I/O, full N/T, night cover. Loaded-$17,595.
1977 Grady White 204-C, 20' 4" w/aro cuddy, twin 75 hp Johnson, new Canvas, "Cream Puff," full CG pkg., VHF-$11,950.
1983 Grady White Tarpon 19', dual console. Full canvas, VHF, CG pkg., 115 hp Johnson-10 hrs. Many extras. $14,500.
1983 Grady White Tournament, dual console, 170 Mod, "display model," 60 hp Johnson-new. Canvas, compass, lounge seat, swivel seat; 5 pass. cap. Flush r/h, horn, batt. Turn key & go-$9250. Ask about other horsepower options!
COME SEE our new 1984 Privateer, Volvo 125 hp I/O, FWC 21' 6"-8' 4" Beam. This is only place to go "Wen-U-Wanna-Buy-A-Privateer.
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See Our complete lines of DELL Quey:
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GREAT CHARTER BOAT
47' 1970 Tiffany Sportfisherman twin 671 J.T. diesel 3.5 kw generator, depth sounders, VHF, CB, Loran C, outriggers, cockpit, tackle locker, fighting chairs. Much more. Asking $69,000. Come w/offer; call for other fine yachts. NAUTICAL SERVICE YACHT SALES, 305-848-6292.

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1979 BOSTON WHALER 17' Montauk, w/1980 70 hp Johnson. Full instrumentation, compass, 2-12 gal. tanks. Excl. cond. $8500. PORT OF EGYPT MARINE, Southold, 516-765-2445.

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25' BLACK FIN 1978, 270 FWC Crusader, stern tiller & controls, Loran, Lowrance white line recorder, VHF & too much more to list. Loaded; excl. cond. $27,000 Firm. 516-481-7475 Eves. 516-249-8414 Days.

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BONITO 26' cuddy, 330 Mercruiser I/O, SI-Tex DF, radio, chairs, canvas, outriggers, gin pole. $22,500. 401-245-2377/7081.

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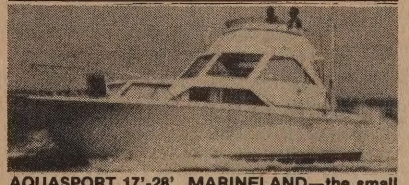
25' LUHRS Fiberglass Sportfisherman. FWC; low hrs. Yard maintained. New trailer, custom winter covers & much more. $8500. Mint cond. 516-725-2726 after 6:30PM



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1982s: 9.9 hp 20" Sail-$1115; 3.5 hp 20" Electric-$1621; 140 hp 25" TNT-$3553. 1983s: 2 hp-$319; 4 hp 20" Sail-$539; 7.5 hp 20"-$859; 9.9 hp 25" Sail-$1185; 9.9 hp 20"-$1001; 60 hp 20" Elec. Start-$2322. FREIGHT Included. SUFFOLK MARINE, 45 Willow St., Babylon. 516-669-0907.

1982 AQUASPORT 20' Walkaround cuddy cabin; 150 Merc., Loran, VHF, recorder, compass. Bimini; CG equip. $13,000. ERIKSENS, 516-766-3332.

1982 SEA NYMPH 17', 65 hp Suzuki, H.D. trailer. Many extras. Excl. cond. $4000. 516-981-3004.

SEABIRD, 1974 Sportfisherman, 24' twin 140 OMC, I/O. Fully repowered, elec., outriggers, full canvas. Many extras. Mint. $12,500. 516-728-0061.

25' MAKO 1977, 200 hp Johnson, new power head. All electronics, outriggers, canvas, reserve fuel. Many other options for offshore fishing. Excl. cond. Best offer. 914-762-5094.

27' CHRIS CRAFT Corinthian, solid wood Lap hull. Dependable twin 283s, dual sta., new running gear. Much more. Excl. cond. Asking $7500. 516-585-4216.

1981 BOSTON WHALER "Montauk" 16' 7", 90 hp Johnson, trailer, recorder, CB. Mint cond. $9800. After 7PM. 516-581-6933.

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Electronics Pkg.—standard VHF, Cobra CB, Mecca 6" white line chart recorder. Complete pkg. only. Make offer. 516-567-9249.

TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Custom made radio & control boxes. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

Radar, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS, INC., 377 Woodcleft Av., Freeport, NY. 516-623-4421.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for Sale or Rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

SI-TEX Loran 787 1983, w/cables, coupler & all instructions. $550. 516-239-0687.

WANTED:
150 to 200 lb. Mushroom anchor for mooring. 516-981-6487.

TIME TO CHECK RADIOS for tuning & power output; start the year right! We can also install channels while you wait, for instance, the new Weather-3 from Riverhead, only $12.50. HEINE MARINE ELECTRONICS, 250 Montauk Hwy, Islip. 516-581-0194.

BIMINI Top w/enclosure, rocket launcher, small fighting chair w/footrest, Simrad Loran, modar VHF, radar stand w/supports. Other misc. equip. off 31 Bertram. Make offers. 516-422-1444.

CARBURETORS, starters, alternators. Rebuilt on premises. Free bench check. Same day service. CRAFTSMAN, 268 Rt. 109, Farmingdale across from Republic Airport. 516-752-1259.

BOAT TRAILER REPAIR. Complete w/all new galvanized parts. FAZIO MFG., INC., 1121-16 Lincoln Av., Holbrook, NY 11741. 516-563-2263.

TRAILER HITCHES—The most complete Draw-Tite line of Class I & II hitches in stock on Long Island. Sales, installations & service. TOM CASH WELDING, Lake Ronkonkoma. 516-JU 8-6143.

$19.99 Buys 24 pts. TCW Outboard oil. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY 10464. 212-885-1559.

FOR SALE: North Star 6000 Loran-$1200; Furuno Model FE502 Mark II Graph recorder-$600. Call Russ Hicks, 203-928-6700 Days. 203-928-3650 Eves.

Continued On Next Page

WANTED: Used Fighting chair—Murray, Rockaway, etc. 516-728-8761.

MURRY Big Tuna Chair. Murry Like Big Chair, SSB 80 Westmar Sonar. 728-4220 Tom.

FISHING TACKLE

PENN 9/0-$50. Altenkirch rod to match-$30. Pair-$75. Also 12 ga. Remington duck gun-$75. All excl. cond. Eves: 516-623-5443.

Umbrella Rig Tubes—9/0 Mustad hooks, Latex tubing, black barrel swivels. 6/$3.25; 12/$6; 24/$11. Specify colors: black, red, green, natural, white, fluorescent red & green. Steven Poulos, 18 Bayview Ave., E. Setauket, NY 11733. 689-8910.

Large supply of new brand name fishing tackle at or below WHOLESALE prices: Penn, Fenwick, Plano, Rebel. Syosset. Jeff, after 3PM. 433-2044.

EDELMAN'S Sporting Goods. Buy new tackle at used prices. Huge inventory. 7 days. 516-249-8080.

Custom Fishing Rods Built; rods repaired; guides rewrapped. We build rods to fit the reel & fish! 516-794-7299/794-1992 Eves.

CUSTOM RODS made to order, by "Dyno Sticks." Quality workmanship. All guaranteed; low prices. 736-1294 or 422-6983.

MISCELLANEOUS

SPRING SPECIAL
Custom built Fenwick rods, Aftco guides, aluminum butts, triple wrapped, diamond wrap, monogramed. Discounts on pairs. IGFA 30-$135; IGFA 50-$155; IGFA 80-$185. 588-4668.

PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS
Fisherman's Friend & Companion. Non-shedding. Intelligent, AKC. Blacks & browns. 516-587-4249.

FOR SALE: Misc. custom Wanser rods & reels, 4/0 - 16/0. Excl. cond. & misc. fishing lures & equipment. 516-783-8727.

CAPT/1ST MATE WANTED. Freeport open boat. Full time. 212-428-8614 After 6PM.

LOBSTER CRAB POTS: L.I. Dealer offers vinyl coated steel wire lobster & crab pots. Light & long lasting. Completely assembled or kit form. Lobstering equipment & delayed time release buoys. Frank, 516-724-3372. Jim 516-928-9603.

REGINA M—Now booking charters for 1984. Fast 22' Mini-Sportfisherman, CG Licensed 1-3 passengers. Full elect. & all tackle. Inshore/offshore from Island Park. Inquire about reasonable rates & split charters. Beginners welcomed; we'll help. Capt. Pete Mikoleski. Day: 212-306-3729. After 6PM. 212-478-4133.

FULLY LICENSED CAPTAIN—Water deliveries, boat/navigation instruction; charters & trips. NAVIGATION SERVICES, 516-795-4498.

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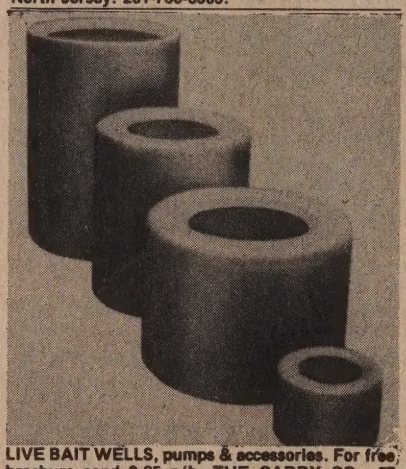
TELEPHONE SYSTEMS

There is no reason to accept that old and outdated telephone equipt you now have. By purchasing your own custom tailored communications system you can save money, improve your service & make your business run more efficiently. We are your Full Service Telephone Company. Ask us for a free evaluation of your present phone system. Call Now! 212-961-3614. If busy, please leave name & phone number.

COMPASSES—COMPASSES—COMPASSES
Remember, if it has anything to do with compasses at all, give me a call! Huge inventory of Ritchie compasses. Expert installation & adjustment. Authorized repair service. I also carry a complete line of binoculars, sextants, clocks, barometers. JENS JACOBS NAUTICAL SERVICE, 516-757-7169.

LOOKING For a foot rest Fighting chair & Fin-Nor reels. Nights: 516-728-8269.

COX BOAT TRAILERS—Direct factory purchase pricing: 12'-$299; 14'-$320; 15'-$350; 16'-$385; 17'-$410; 18'-$530; 20'-$685; 22'-24'-26' avail. Roller cradles, galvanizing, or brakes optional. North Jersey. 201-736-3909.



LIVE BAIT WELLS, pumps & accessories. For free brochure send $.25 p/h. THE CADDY CO., 57 Bayonne Av., Dept. E, Central Islip, New York 11722; 516-234-0144.

74" Glass Rod; 5 stainless rollers; 4/0 Penn reel; 3.8 Grumman 2 pr. oars; nylon line, pulleys, trolling sockets. Woolrich outfit. 298-5282.

GOVERNMENT JOBS. $16,559-$50,553/year. Now hiring; your area. Call 805-687-6000, Ext. R-3617.

COOPER'S GALLEY
FIRST QUALITY commercial rain gear at wholesale prices. Full line O.D. & camouflage rain gear & hunting gear. 725-0661. COOPER'S GALLEY, West Water St., Sag Harbor, NY 11963.

SMOKED EELS—Always fresh; always available. Wholesale; retail. VALLEY FOOD PRODUCTS, 560 Franklin Av., Franklin Square. 516-561-6191.

Summer Dockage & Winter Storage avail. Deep, wide, picturesque river in Copiague, 20 mins. to Frank & Dick's. Full service: Mercruiser, OMC & Volvo. Used boats for sale. Check us out. 519 MARINA, 519 Boatyard. 516-842-1579/789-8789.

CHARTER BOAT & Business for Sale in lucrative Long Island fishing center. 516-883-6461.

HELP WANTED: Party boat 2nd mate. Male or female. Full time; will train. Dependable, energetic person only. "CASEY LEE," Bay Shore, 516-661-1867.

EDELMAN's, world's largest gun dealer, is going into fishing. Trainees needed to sell, repair, install fishing equipment. $175 for 46 hrs. 516-249-8080. Ask for Mr. Ristori.

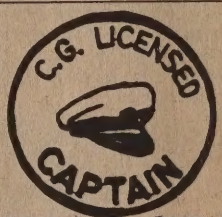
PAINTING: Interior & Exterior by Jack "The Painter" Murray. Let us paint while you fish. 516-273-0960.

EDELMAN'S, world's largest Gun Dealer, is going into fishing. Trainees needed to sell, repair, install fishing equipment. $175 for 46 hrs. 516-249-8080. Ask for Mr. Ristori.

FLOUNDERS COME FROM EVERYWHERE
WHEN YOU OWN A MUSSEL TOOL!!!!!!
SAVE CASH! SAVE CASH!
Pick bushels of chum and bait with Mussel Tool. No bending; match the length to your reach. Pincer-grips, molded hand grips. Send $14 to: GEORGE CARDEL, 93-08 Francis Lewis Blvd., Queens Village, NY 11428.

FLUKE KILLER RIGS—the ultimate in a deadly double hook rig. You'll hook more & lose fewer fluke, since fish can't avoid fully adjustable tail hook. Hand tied, finest materials. 3 for $3.90. P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566. Our 11th year.

EDELMAN'S, world's largest Gun Dealer, is going into fishing. Trainees needed to sell, repair, install fishing equipment. $175 for 46 hrs. 516-249-8080. Ask for Mr. Ristori.



BEST COURSE TO YOUR LICENSE. Everything you need-$46. Guaranteed. NAVIGATION RULES book alone: $5. MARINE ASSOCIATES, P.O. Box 217N, Teaneck, NJ 07666. 201-837-8188.

FISHING FOR FLUKE by Don Kamienski. Packed w/info on drifting, trolling & locating fluke. Baits, rigs, "dropback," casting lures, bay, river, ocean methods. 112 pgs.; many diagrams. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08722. TFN

On Water Boat Deliveries: Pleasure & commercial. U.S.C.G. Licensed captains. MARINE SURVEY SERVICE, 516-757-7041.

GREAT GIFT IDEA! Solid cast metal fish belt buckles. Avail. fluke, blue, striper, flounder, tuna, porgy, shark, harpoon dart. Also avail. striped bass pin. $6.95 ea. Send ck. or M.O. to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke., Merrick, NY 11566.

REAL ESTATE

FANTASTIC FLORIDA KEYS FISHING
Rent—Duck Key Condo. Sleeps 4. Furnished, convenient and reasonable. 516-589-7005.

DISTRESS SALE: 3 Prime lots in Silver Spring Shores, FLA. $20,000 for all 3. 516-433-4427.

FOR SALE!
KEENE, N.H.—4.2 Wooded Acres. Water & elec. access. Must sell. Asking $7500. Call after 6PM. 516-725-3915.

WOODED ACRES FOR SALE
Delaware Co., Hamden-Andes area. Prime deer & turkey hunting land. Only a few miles from the famous "Papacton Res." Plus great trout streams nearby. Very reasonable. Jake, 607-746-2987.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	7:00	7:20	7:55	8:10	7:40	8:05	8:35	9:00	11:10	11:30	10:30	10:50	6:50	7:10	3/1
FRI.	7:40	7:55	8:30	8:45	8:20	8:40	9:10	9:30	11:40	11:55	11:05	11:20	7:30	7:50	3/2
SAT.	8:10	8:30	9:05	9:15	8:55	9:15	9:45	10:05	—	12:05	11:40	11:55	8:10	8:25	3/3
SUN.	8:50	9:05	9:40	9:50	9:30	9:50	10:20	10:40	12:10	12:15	—	12:15	8:45	9:05	3/4
MON.	9:25	9:35	10:10	10:25	10:00	10:20	10:55	11:15	12:25	12:40	12:30	12:45	9:25	9:40	3/5
TUES.	9:25	10:10	10:45	11:05	10:25	10:45	11:30	11:50	12:50	1:10	1:00	1:25	10:00	10:15	3/6
WED.	10:30	10:50	11:20	11:45	10:55	11:15	—	12:10	1:25	1:50	1:40	2:00	10:35	11:00	3/7
THURS.	11:10	11:30	—	12:05	11:30	12:00	12:30	12:55	2:05	2:35	2:20	2:45	11:20	11:45	3/8

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	3/1	6:36	5:50
FRI.	3/2	6:35	5:52
SAT.	3/3	6:34	5:53
SUN.	3/4	6:32	5:54
MON.	3/5	6:29	5:55
TUE.	3/6	6:27	5:56
WED.	3/7	6:26	5:58

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:		RISE:	SET:
THU.	3/1	6:15AM	4:29PM
FRI.	3/2	6:40AM	5:30PM
SAT.	3/3	7:03AM	6:30PM
SUN.	3/4	7:24AM	7:31PM
MON.	3/5	7:45AM	8:31PM
TUE.	3/6	8:06AM	9:33PM
WED.	3/7	8:30AM	10:37PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
3/2	3/10	3/17	3/24

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	3:55	**10:00**	4:10	**10:20**
Fri.	4:35	**10:40**	4:50	**11:00**
Sat.	5:15	**11:25**	5:35	**11:45**
Sun.	6:00	—	6:25	**12:10**
Mon.	6:40	**12:30**	7:05	**12:50**
Tues.	7:25	**1:15**	7:50	**1:35**
Wed.	8:10	**2:00**	8:40	**2:25**
Thurs.	9:00	**2:50**	9:30	**3:15**

SI-TEX

NORTHSTAR 800
Loran-C Navigator

PETTIT
marine paint

GUEST

Shakespeare

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Instrument Corporation

Interlux
YACHT FINISHES

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Newsday Fishing Editor

NICK KARAS

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★

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WOR Radio's Head Meteorologist

BILL KORBEL

on "Forecasting Weather on the Water"

U.S. Coast Guard representative CWO

DAN KING

explains the use of Loran C for Navigating & Safety

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Seminar Dates:

Saturday, March 3rd & Sunday, March 4th

Location:

Giant Tent at Shane's of Babylon

260 E. Main Street, Merrick Road, Babylon, L.I., N.Y.

Established 1932

MARINE Shane's

Seminar Times:
Seminar 1 - 10:00 A.M.;
Seminar 2 - 12:30 A.M.;
Seminar 3 - 3:00 P.M.

All seating on a first come first serve basis, please call for directions and session seating availability

516•422•3300